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CHICKASAW TIMES

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'It's A Wonderful Life: Live Radio Show' set for the McSwain

ADA, Okla. - Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities and the McSwain Theatre bring a beloved American holiday classic to life Dec. 13-14 at the McSwain Theatre in Ada.

Inspired by the classic film, "It's a Wonderful Life," "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" is performed as a 1940s live radio broadcast before a studio audience.

Director James Wallace discovered the play while searching for a holiday show to produce. After reading the script, Mr. Wallace thought it would be the perfect show for local audiences to enjoy.

"It's a classic story almost everyone knows," Mr. Wallace said.

An ensemble cast portrays more than 50 characters and live sound effects and musical interludes accompany the performance.

"This is a different form of entertainment than what people might be used to seeing," Mr. Wallace said. "The actors will be dressed in 1940s clothing and will portray more than one character. Audiences will enjoy watching the Foley artist create the sound effects while watching and listening to the actors. In addition to what the audience hears, they will see all the action take place on a stage that is set to resemble an old radio station."

Local actors, including many Chickasaws, have been cast for the production. The cast, Mr. Wallace said, is a good mix of seasoned actors and performers new to the stage.

"They are all bringing an abundance of talent and energy to the stage to give our community a fantastic show."

Performances begin at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 13 and Saturday, Dec. 14. A 2 p.m. Saturday matinee is also on the schedule.

Tickets are $5 and are available at the McSwain Theatre, 130 W. Main in Ada. For more information, visit www.mcswaintheatre.com.

CONTRIBUTED BY Joshua Rogers, Public Affairs

Voters can request additional Times copies

The Chickasaw Times mail lists have been consolidated so each Chickasaw household will now receive one newspaper.

If you prefer to receive extra copies of *the Times*, please contact the office of the Election Secretary/Tribal Registrar at 1-888-661-0137

Poinsettias for Christmas

Chickasaw Nation Horticulture Greenhouse Supervisor David Correll tends to one of the hundreds of poinsettia plants at the tribal Community Gardens greenhouse. The plants, which have been growing in the greenhouse since July, will be sent to the Chickasaw Cultural Center to be used in holiday décor.

ADA, Okla. - Christmas begins in July at the Chickasaw Nation Community Gardens.

That is when hundreds of poinsettia cuttings, ordered in April, arrive at the Ada greenhouse. The staff gets started on the methodical task of caring for the finicky tropical plants - putting them in pots, monitoring for insects and fungus, and making sure they get just the right amount of water.

This five-month process culminates in early December as the Christmas plants are delivered to the Chickasaw Cultural Center and used in the Christmas displays throughout campus.

This year, 300 pots will be delivered, which contain about three plants each. Most are traditional flaming red but some are expected to turn bright orange.

The poinsettia is native to Mexico. The plant's association with Christmas began in the 16th century in Mexico where legend tells of a poor girl who could not provide a gift for the celebration of Jesus' birthday. She was inspired by an angel to gather weeds and place them in the front of the church altar. Red "blossoms" sprouted from the weeds and became the poinsettia.

In Spain and Puerto Rico, the poinsettia is known as "Flor de Pascua," meaning "Easter flower." In both Chile and Peru, the plant is known as "Crown of the Andes."

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Season's Greetings

Gov. BILL ANOATUBBY

Season's greetings and warmest holiday wishes from all of us at the Chickasaw Nation!

God has bestowed countless blessings on us. We are especially thankful for our families, our friends and our tribe.

As Chickasaws, we share a very special bond that has remained constant throughout the generations. Chickasaws over the centuries have faced tremendous challenges. We have been blessed by the Almighty, and by the incredible sacrifices of Chickasaw generations that came before us. With God's grace, our people have survived and flourished.

This Christmas season, we extend special holiday wishes of goodwill to all our military men and women serving here at home and overseas. We pray for your safety and your return home to your loving families.

We send our regards to our Chickasaw veterans who have served our country so honorably; to our Chickasaw elders who are the rock of our tribe; to our Chickasaw families for whom we wish much peace, love and happiness.

We pray a special blessing for our Chickasaw children. It is for them we pray for wonderful, full and blessed lives.

This season's message of love, peace and charity is so important for those among us who have experienced challenge and sorrow in their lives. We pray for those who seek understanding and compassion.

Our prayer is that we answer the call when the opportunity comes to help our fellow man.

The season of peace and fullness of spirit has arrived! God bless you, your family and our beloved Chickasaw Nation!

Bill Anoatubby

Visitor Center, art gallery, cafe now open

Attractions offer welcome to 'Chicksaw Country'

New facilities dedicated in Sulphur

Governor Bill Anoatubby, center with large scissors, is joined by tribal and local officials and distinguished guests Nov. 14 during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Sulphur, Okla. The event dedicated a trio of new attractions in Chickasaw Country. The Chickasaw Visitor Center, ARTesian Gallery and Studios and Bedre Café were all dedicated that day.

Marcy Gray

SULPHUR, Okla. - Governor Bill Anoatubby was joined by tribal and local officials and a host of community members to officially open a trio of new attractions in Chickasaw Country - the Chickasaw Visitor Center, ARTesian Gallery and Studios and Bedre Café in a Nov. 14 ribbon cutting ceremony.

Gov. Anoatubby said the Visitor Center, art gallery and café located adjacent to the tribe's Artesian Hotel continue the Chickasaw Nation's strategic tourism efforts in Chickasaw Country.

"Opening these new facilities is an exciting step into a new era of tourism in southern Oklahoma," Gov. Anoatubby said. "From gourmet chocolate to gorgeous artwork and natural beauty, these new facilities offer something for almost everyone in an area that already provides travel experiences that entertain, inform and enlighten."

Chickasaw Visitor Center - Sharing Our Story

Designed to provide information and tell the story of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, the Chickasaw Visitor Center will serve a wide range of tourists, highlight local attractions and highlight the Chickasaw Nation's connection to the area.

The Visitor Center is an information hub and gateway to Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Founded in 1906, Chickasaw National Recreation Area is the only national park established at the request of a Native American tribe, the Chickasaw Nation.

"This Visitor Center is part of our long-range plan to help promote tourism in this area," Gov. Anoatubby said. "We believe this will be an excellent venue to welcome guests to the area and encourage them to discover the natural beauty, history and hospitality of Chickasaw Country."

Built of native stone, glass and copper, the Visitor Center is located at the intersection of State Highway 7 and U.S. 177, adjacent to the Artesian Hotel and the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The split-level structure includes an information desk, a multi- purpose gallery, media room, public restrooms and a gift shop on the street level. Office space is located on the lower level.

The interior of the building features natural slate flooring, elevated wood ceilings and a prominent wall sculpture by Chickasaw artist Paul Moore.

The 8,500-square-foot Visitor Center features information about Chickasaw Country destinations and lodging options as well as two interactive kiosks. The kiosks enable visitors to customize a travel route from hotel to attraction to restaurant and everything in between.

Works of art and photography by Native American artists are also featured. Currently, exhibits featuring Chickasaw artists Tracie Tuck Davis and Brent Greenwood are on display.

The eco-friendly building is designed by Oklahoma architectural firm Frankfurt-Short-Bruza Associates. It was awarded a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. The certification is based on energy usage, sustainable features, innovative design and other green criteria.

The Chickasaw Visitor Center is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day in the winter months and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day. It is closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

For more information about the Chickasaw Visitor Center, call (580) 622-8050, or visit chickasawcountry.com.

Bedre Café - A Chocolate Lover's Paradise!

Situated alongside retailers at the Artesian Hotel, the Bedre Café is a one-of-a kind coffee bar, candy store, sandwich shop and confectionary.

Many menu items feature Bedre Fine Chocolate, a Chickasaw Nation business. The café offers gourmet coffees, fresh fruit smoothies, made-to-order deli sandwiches and freshly baked goods like cookies, muffins, and layered cakes. The menu also features hand-dipped ice cream cones, ice cream sundaes and signature shakes.

SEE **RIBBON CUTTING**, PAGE 2

RIBBON CUTTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The 1950s-era inspired eatery also includes a retail area.

Bedre Café is open Sunday – Saturday from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

For more information about Bedré Café, call (580) 622-8020 or visit chickasawcountry.com.

ARTesian Gallery and Studio Offer a Place to Create

A space for creating, appreciating and sharing fine art, the ARTesian Gallery and Studio, located at 101 West Muskogee, offers almost 7,400 square feet of space to celebrate and share a variety of art.

Renovated to complement the grand Artesian Hotel, which is located across the street, the ARTesian Gallery and Studio features an art gallery, classroom space, reception and retail space.

Conceived as a place to assist and promote Chickasaw and other artists, the facility houses a pottery studio and up to five separate studio spaces, which will be available for artists to rent.

The building is complete with a gallery, classroom space, a smart board and ample space and equipment needed to create.

Art classes for all levels, from beginning artists to professional artists, will be offered. The ARTesian will also offer "make and take" classes and classes specifically designed for visitors and tourists to the area.

Chickasaw textile artist Margaret Roach Wheeler's studio space includes a variety of looms for weaving workshops and classes.

The gallery area provides an excellent venue for artists to display and market their work as well as a reception area for "meet the artists" events and gallery art shows.

Supplies for creating all types of art, from high-quality paint brushes and watercolors to crayons and coloring books, is available in the retail shop. Traditional and contemporary jewelry, books, music and more created by Chickasaw and Native artists are also available in the retail shop.

The ARTesian Gallery and Studio is a restoration of a long-standing Sulphur structure which once housed a department store.

For more information about the ARTesian Gallery contact the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities at (580) 272-5520, or the ARTesian Gallery and Studios at (580) 622-8040.

Investing in Chickasaw Country

The new facilities are part of an overall Chickasaw Nation initiative to promote tourism and economic development in Chickasaw Country.

"Visitors to the area bring more jobs and enhance local, tribal and state economies," Gov. Anoatubby said. "We believe our continuing investment in this area will help sustain our longstanding partnerships in this area and benefit the state and local economy far into the future."

Significant investments in Murray County, Oklahoma include the Artesian Hotel, the Chickasaw Cultural Center, located in Sulphur, and Bedre' Chocolate Factory and Chickasaw Welcome Center, both located at exit 55 along Interstate 35 near Davis.

More than 205,000 people have visited the Chickasaw Cultural Center since it opened in July 2010.

Murray County attracts more than three million visitors each year. Other attractions in the area include Turner Falls, Lake of the Arbuckles and Cross Bar Ranch all-terrain vehicle trails.

Gateway Park

Gateway Park is currently under construction on the southwest corner of State Highway 7 and U.S. 177. The park combines natural and man-made beauty and features art work by Chickasaw artist and Sulphur native Joanna Underwood.

For more information about events, attractions and lodging in Chickasaw Country, visit chickasawcountry.com.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

WinStar accommodates growing customer base

Key Chickasaw business opens new 500-room hotel tower

Governor Bill Anoatubby, center with large scissors, is joined by tribal officials and guests Nov. 6 during a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open a new 500-room hotel tower at WinStar World Casino and Resort. Joining Gov. Anoatubby to cut the ribbon are, from left, tribal Supreme Court justice Cheri Bellefeuille-Gordan, tribal legislators Linda Briggs, Dean McManus, Mary Jo Green, Nancy Elliott, Connie Barker, and Shana Tate Hammond, Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel, Gov. Anoatubby, legislators Beth Alexander and David Woerz, ambassador Neal McCaleb, Love County Commissioner Jerry McGill, tribal Commerce secretary Bill Lance, legislator Toby Perkins, Love County Commissioner Bub Perry, former tribal judge Charles Tate, Mercy-Marietta Hospital CEO Richard Barker, and FlintCo representatives Mark Grimes and Tom Maxwell.

Marcy Gray

THACKERVILLE, Okla. - Governor Bill Anoatubby was joined Nov. 13 by elected officials and community members for the ribbon cutting ceremony of a new 500-room hotel tower at the tribe's WinStar World Casino and Resort.

As WinStar World Casino Hotel's second tower, the new, 18-story hotel tower is adjacent to the existing 12-story, 395-room tower.

"This is a significant milestone in our efforts to upgrade what we believe is a world-class destination," Gov. Anoatubby said. "This new hotel and other expansions also continue to enhance the positive economic impact WinStar has in this area."

Gov. Anoatubby said WinStar World Casino Hotel and London Plaza expansion project added approximately 450 jobs to the area, bringing the total number of employees at WinStar World Casino and Resort to more than 3,500. He also said a third hotel tower, similar in size and room count, is under construction and expected to open in 2014.

The project also added a new luxury pool and garden oasis with about 50,000 square feet of lush landscaping and other water features, six private cabanas, two hot tubs, a fire pit and a 200-seat Terrace View Café.

In addition to the new hotel tower, Gov. Anoatubby also shared details about an expansion project to the casino's main building that opened recently. The project, in the London Plaza, added two new restaurants and hundreds of new games across more than 56,000 square feet.

Architectural firm Hnedak Bobo Group designed the hotel tower and Oklahoma City-based Flintco served as the general contractor on the project. Hnedak Bobo Group also designed the London Plaza expansion and Hill Wilkinson served as the general contractor.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

About WinStar World Casino and Resort

With more games than any other casino in the world, WinStar World Casino and Resort offers more than 7,400 electronic games, 120 tables games, a 3,500-seat Global Event Center and an 895-room WinStar World Casino Hotel. Located just north of the Oklahoma/Texas border along Interstate 35, WinStar World Casino and Resort presents 24/7 gaming action, world-class entertainers and a wide range of restaurants. WinStar World Casino and Resort is an economic enterprise of the Chickasaw Nation.

For more information visit our website at www.WinStarWorldCasino.com or follow on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/WinStarWorldCasino or http://twitter.com/#!/WinStarWorld

About the Chickasaw Nation

With more than 50,000 citizens, the Chickasaw Nation is the 12th largest federally-recognized Indian tribe in the United States.

The Chickasaw Nation had an economic impact of more than $2.4 billion in Oklahoma in 2011. The tribe is the seventh largest employer in Oklahoma, with more than 12,000 employees. A democratic republic with executive, legislative and judicial departments, the tribe's jurisdictional territory includes all or part of 13 counties in south central Oklahoma.

Correction

The Times incorrectly reported in its November edition that Chickasaw leader Piomingo signed the pivotal Treaty of Hopewell in Philadelphia at the home of President George Washington. The treaty was actually signed in 1786 at the Hopewell Plantation in South Carolina.

This month on CNTV

Artesian area ribbon cuttings

The Chickasaw Nation cut the ribbon on a trio of businesses in Sulphur. The ARTesian Gallery, the Bedre' Café and the Sulphur Visitors Center are now open. Get an inside look at the three facilities this month on CNTV.

Christmastime at the Chickasaw Cultural Center

The Chickasaw Cultural Center celebrates the sights and sounds of the holiday season with fun activities. Watch CNTV this month to find out more.

Century chest treasures

A century chest was unearthed this year filled with historic treasures. CNTV is there to give you a look into Oklahoma's past.

….and much more! New episodes are available on the first and fifteenth of each month.

Visit www.chickasaw.tv and click on the News channel to watch CNTV.

Extra hours for holiday shopping at Arts & Humanities Gallery

The Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities Gallery will be open extended hours in December during the holiday season.

The gallery will be open 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday starting Dec. 5 and 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, 14 and 21.

A large selection of gifts will be available including jewelry, artwork and books.

Other items include fine art cards designed by Chickasaw artists, TOBACHI CDs and signed limited edition prints.

The gallery is located at 201 N. Broadway in Ada. It is also open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.

For more information, please call (580) 272-5520.

CONTRIBUTED BY Joshua Rogers, Public Affairs.

Butterfly Logo Contest open to young artists

Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities is accepting entries for a butterfly logo. Entries will be accepted through Jan. 24, 2014.

Chickasaw female artists, ages 14 – 18, are encouraged to submit one piece of artwork. The art may be in a medium of the artist's choice. Entries should be between 10 inches and 20 inches in size and may be submitted on art paper, canvas or art board.

The winning butterfly logo will be featured in all artwork and promotional materials for the 2014 Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference and Forum. Conducted in partnership with East Central University, the conference and forum recognize the strength and leadership of Chickasaw women from all walks of life.

The winner of the butterfly logo contest will also receive a $200 cash award.

Entries can be delivered to the Arts & Humanities office, 201 N. Broadway in Ada or mailed to Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821. Entries can also be emailed to artistinfo@chickasaw.net.

Artists must be able to provide proof of Chickasaw citizenship.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Watson at (580) 272-5520 or email jennifer.watson@chickasaw.net.

CONTRIBUTED BY Joshua Rogers, Public Affairs.

Chickasaw Clemente courses available Spring semester

Two upcoming university courses offer the opportunity to explore the rich and diverse culture, history, government, language and experience of the Chickasaw people.

Enrollment is now open for the Spring 2013 Chickasaw Clemente humanities study courses. The classes will be offered at East Central University in Ada and Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

Both classes provide an in-depth look at Chickasaw and Native American humanities. Each class will feature assigned readings and class discussion as well as guest lecturers. One hour of each class session will be devoted to Chickasaw language instruction.

The courses are complementary and do not need to be taken in order. Students will earn three college credit hours upon successful completion of each course.

A limited number of scholarships are available for Chickasaw citizens through Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities. Chickasaw Nation employees may also earn Individual Development Plan (IDP) credit upon completion.

Enrollment deadline for the classes is January 17, 2014. For more information about the Clemente courses, please contact Jennifer Watson at (580) 272-5520.

CONTRIBUTED BY Joshua Rogers, Public Affairs.

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All editorials and letters will become the property of the Chickasaw Times. Editorials must be signed by the author and include the author's address.

Deadline for submission is the 22nd of each month prior to publication. Submissions can be mailed, faxed, hand-delivered or e-mailed.

Movies, plays, shows, holiday lights, visits with Santa...and much more!

Lots of holiday activities throughout the Chickasaw Nation

The Chickasaw White House, Emet, Okla., decorated for Christmas, will be the final stop Saturday, Dec. 14 of "Christmas at the Museums." The Christmas at the Museums event features a free progressive dinner providing a separate course of dinner at each stop. Appetizers will be served 4 p.m. at the Chickasaw Council House in Tishomingo, Okla., followed by a variety of stews 5 p.m. at the historic Chickasaw Capitol. After the dinner, a shuttle will be available to take the guests to the Chickasaw White House for desserts and a visit with Santa.

Christmas spirit will encompass the entire month of December in Chickasaw Country. There are several holiday-themed events, planned for local communities and hosted by the Chickasaw Nation.

Up Go the Lights! Dec. 2

The Christmas season will be brighter for thousands of people in southern Oklahoma thanks to the second annual Christmas lights at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur. The holiday season kicks off Dec. 2 at the Chickasaw Cultural Center as Christmas lights and displays will be turned on Monday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m.

Dozens of displays featuring traditional Christmas themes and Chickasaw greetings are included in the dazzling drive-through display.

The free drive-through light display will be open every evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., during the month of December.

More than 3,500 people visited the attraction last year.

The lights' debut is the same evening as the Sulphur Christmas Parade, which begins at 6:30 p.m., and the debut of the "Plaza Experience" 45,000-light show and "mega Christmas display" in downtown Sulphur.

The halls and walls of the Artesian Hotel, also located in Sulphur, will also be decked for the Christmas holiday.

CCC Holiday Movies

Several holiday films are set for December at the Chickasaw Cultural Center including "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" Dec. 3; "Christmas in the Clouds" Dec. 7 ; "A Christmas Story" Dec. 10; "Elf" Dec.17; and "Muppets Christmas Carol" will be shown each weekend in December.

Ada Yule Fun

The McSwain Theatre in Ada will serve free hot chocolate and play a free holiday movie throughout the afternoon and evening of Thursday, Dec. 5, the day of Ada's Christmas Parade.

A free holiday concert by students of the Chickasaw School of Guitar and Chickasaw Children's Choir will be conducted at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7 at the McSwain Theatre.

Chickasaw Cultural Christmas Celebration, December 7

Santa Claus and Christmas cheer can be found at the Chickasaw Cultural Center Christmas Celebration, Saturday, Dec.7. The annual event includes celebrations of several significant holiday traditions.

Pictures with Santa will be available in the Anoli Theater lobby. A Native American miniature ornament class is planned, as well as a Christmas tree workshop for children.

The Chickasaw Press will host a book signing and holiday sales will be offered all day at Cultural Center retail shops.

A holiday film will be screened in the Anoli Theater.

Guided tours of the traditional village will also be available.

For more information about any of the upcoming events, contact the Chickasaw Cultural Center at (580) 622-7130, or online at www.chickasawculturalcenter.com.

The Chickasaw Cultural Center is located at 867 Charles Cooper Memorial Drive in Sulphur, Okla.

'It's a Wonderful Life – Old Fashioned Radio Show'

Witness the holiday classic come to life as the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities and the McSwain Theatre present "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 and Saturday, Dec. 14. A 2 p.m. matinee will be presented Dec. 14.

"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," by Joe Landry, harkens back to the golden age of radio. Performed as a live radio broadcast in front of a studio audience, an ensemble of actors tell the story of George Bailey and the night he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve in 1946.

Presented by Chickasaw Nation Arts and Humanities and the McSwain Theatre, the performance is produced in special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

Tickets are now available.

For more information, contact Lorie Robins at (580) 272-5520

Holiday-themed trek in Tishomingo area Dec. 14

The Chickasaw Nation will host a holiday-themed trek through Chickasaw territory Saturday, Dec. 14 with "Christmas at the Museums."

The "Christmas at the Museums" event features a free progressive dinner providing a separate course of dinner at each stop. Appetizers will be served 4 p.m., at the Chickasaw Council House in Tishomingo, Okla., followed by a variety of stews 5 p.m., at the historic Chickasaw Capitol.

After the dinner, a shuttle will be available to take the guests to the Chickasaw White House in Emet, Okla., for desserts and a visit with Santa.

Guests will also be able to enjoy the festive décor and music as they tour the museums.

The Council House Museum includes artifacts tracing the history and culture of the Chickasaw people, contemporary Chickasaw artworks, a gift shop and more. It is located at 209 North Fisher.

The historic Chickasaw Capitol building, a stately structure overlooking the town of Tishomingo, is located at 411 W. 9th Street.

Built in 1895, the Chickasaw White House was the home of Chickasaw Governor and his family from 1898 to 1971. Now under the care of the tribe, the White House has been restored to its full grandeur. It is located at the north edge of Emet, 10 miles east of Tishomingo.

For more information, please call (580) 371-9835.

Christmas Stories at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center

"Christmas Story" and "Story of the Candy Cane" will be presented at 2 p.m., Dec. 16-20 at the Chickasaw Medical Center Town Center, in Ada.

Holiday Shows at the McSwain

"The Christmas Spectacular" hosted by Jae L. and Crossover will be conducted at the McSwain Theatre, Saturday, Dec. 21 beginning at 7:30 p.m., and the "Hee Haw" show will get under way New Year's Eve at the McSwain Theatre Tuesday, Dec. 31 show.

For more information about events at the historic theatre contact the McSwain Theatre at (580) 332-8108 or online at www.McSwainTheatre.com.

Follow theatre updates on Facebook at Facebook.com/McSwainTheatre or on Twitter at Twitter.com/McSwainTheatre.

The McSwain Theatre, owned and operated by the Chickasaw Nation, is located at 130 W. Main in Ada.

For a list of Christmas parades and lighting events in Chickasaw Country, please visit http://chickasawcountry.com/oklahoma-christmas-light-displays-and-parades?utm_source=Chickasaw+Email+Opt-Ins&utm_campaign=59f6dc4596-Nov_19_CC_email&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e1bb08cf09-59f6dc4596-38483433

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge

Wildlife sanctuary offers unique view of the Chickasaw Nation

TISHOMINGO – Dove flee intruders with whirling, whistling, twisting flight. Wild persimmon trees produce the fruit deer and other animals adore. An armadillo scavenges the forest floor in search of grubs. Geese and ducks arrive and depart with regularity evoking thoughts of a busy major metropolitan airport.

A wild persimmon tree bears fruit in the bright sun of an autumn day. Deer and other wildlife will find sustenance this winter from the bountiful crop of trees located within the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge.

For outdoor enthusiasts, birdwatchers, hunters, hikers, historians and for people poet Robert Service observed "roam the world at will," The Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge is home away from home.

Named in honor of Chickasaw Chief Tishomingo – one of the tribe's most celebrated war chiefs who died of small pox on the Trail of Tears at age 104 -- the more than 16,000-acre preserve is a managed habitat for migratory waterfowl and offers recreation activities for just about everyone.

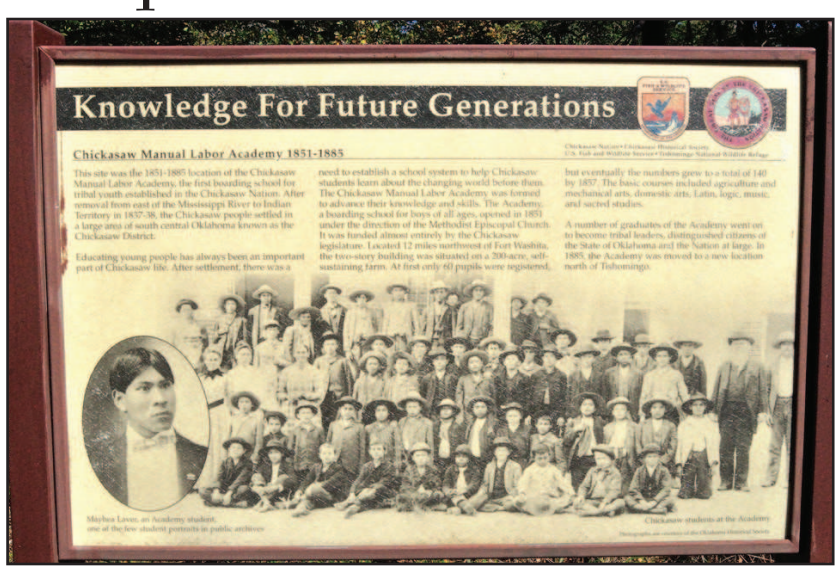
Located just minutes east of downtown Tishomingo, the refuge has significant ties to the Chickasaw people.

"The Chickasaw Nation is a good friend to the refuge," manager Kristopher Patton said.

"Through its (the tribe's) generosity, we currently staff a part-time employee, Sue Robins, who helps answers questions about the refuge."

According to the September issue of the *Tishomingo Refuge Ecology and Education Society Newsletter*, Ms. Robins began working as a museum curator at the refuge in April with Chickasaw Nation support. The Chickasaw Nation provides for 30 hours of employee funding a week for Ms. Robins to work and maintain the Washita Farm Heritage Center located within the refuge.

The Chickasaw Nation has historic connections to the refuge as well. The original 200-acre site of the Chickasaw Manual Labor Academy was constructed in 1851 on land that would later become the refuge. It was the first boarding school established by the Chickasaw Nation for tribal youth.



A historical marker designating the site of the Chickasaw Manual Labor Academy, which opened in 1851, is located along the main road heading into the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge.

Skills in agriculture and mechanical arts, domestic arts, Latin, logic, music and sacred studies were taught there.

Many graduates went on to become tribal leaders and distinguished citizens of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation. A historical marker guides park visitors to the site today. The two-story school house and accompanying self-sustaining farm were funded almost entirely by the Chickasaw people.

People venture to the refuge to enjoy fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife watching, boating and camping. Located on the northern banks of Lake Texoma, it is part of a larger national network managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for wildlife preservation and recreational use.

Six female Mallard ducks traverse the waters of a small pond located within the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge.

"We generally estimate 40,000 geese and 40,000 ducks use the refuge annually," Mr. Patton said. "That number increases and decreases from year to year depending on the weather. As far as people, we have approximately 210,000 visitors and 2,000 to 3,000 hunters a year."

The Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge has three well-maintained nature and hiking trails. Each has a specific goal to delight visitors.

The Oklahoma Legacy Arboretum is a quarter-mile handicap accessible trail with access from the visitor center parking lot. Amenities include plant identification plaques, murals depicting wildlife scenes and scopes allowing visitors a closer view of aquatic birds and other wildlife.

The mile-long Craven Trail is a moderate hike for wildlife aficionados. With both paved and gravel portions along the trail, opportunities to see obscure wildlife is at its best. Hikers have reported seeing otters, herons and bald eagles among other wildlife.

Running along Sandy Creek, the Sandy Creek Trail is popular with anglers and birdwatchers. Anglers enjoy easy access to the otherwise rugged banks of Sandy Creek, while birdwatchers have the opportunity to catch glimpses of the more than 250 land and aquatic bird species.

According to the Tishomingo National and Wildlife Refuge website, hunting is one of the priority recreational uses of the refuge and compatible with its mission. Hunters help manage the lands for the benefit of wildlife.

Limited hunting on the refuge is encouraged. Approximately 3,150 acres is devoted to hunting. Popular game animals include waterfowl, deer, turkeys, quail and dove. In some locations, specially constructed blinds are available for duck and geese hunters.

Water activities at the refuge include boating and fishing. Crappie, catfish, bass and many other species of fish make their home in the waters at the refuge.

Annual and special events are held throughout the year. These include the Arbuckle-Simpson Nature Festival, National Wildlife Refuge Week Celebration, Christmas Bird Count, International Migratory Bird Day and National Public Lands Day. A Visitor Center is open year-round Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to provide detailed information to visitors.

For more information, contact the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center at (580) 371-2402.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

Many important facilities opened in 2013; programs, services, business all stronger

TIM COLBERT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chukma!

Greetings from the Tishomingo District!

As we come to the close of another year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The year 2013 brought many exciting developments for the Chickasaw Nation. From the opening of new facilities as a part of our tourism efforts; to the continuous strides made to deliver top-notch services to our citizens, this year has been full of progressive developments in the Chickasaw Nation.

Opening facilities this year such as the Chikasha House at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center and the Youth Transitional Living Facility will help ensure our citizens and other Native Americans receive care and comfort in their time of need – regardless of the situation.

The new softball complex opened in Ada this year offers a place for our people to gather to play a friendly game of softball. The softball field also promotes wellness and family bonding.

We all shared a sense of pride in August when the grand Artesian Hotel in Sulphur opened its doors for the first time and again when the near-by Visitor Center, art gallery and other attractions celebrated grand openings.

Our tourism efforts continued with the opening of a new hotel tower and other expansions at WinStar World Casino in Thackerville; and cutting the ribbon on a new Chickasaw Travel Stop in Davis. The travel stop is located across the highway from Bedre Chocolate Factory and the Chickasaw Welcome Center, and adjacent to Treasure Valley Casino, along I-35.

Developing tourism in the Chickasaw Nation has been a goal and vision of Chickasaw people for the past 25 years; and these new facilities, in addition to existing ones, help us meet our goal.

Diversifying our businesses also helps ensure our citizens can depend on the Chickasaw Nation to continue to deliver vital services; from health care, housing, education assistants, programs designed for youth and elders, and many more.

Again, I hope you and your family have a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative on the Chickasaw legislature.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Tim Colbert
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net
580-421-7242

Thanksgiving lunch a great time to spend with elders; three ribbons cut in November

TOBY PERKINS

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chokma,

I hope all is well with you and your family.

I had the pleasure of attending the Chickasaw Elders Thanksgiving Lunch at the Agri-Plex in Ada. It was so good to spend time with our elders.

I would like to thank all those who prepared and helped serve the delicious meal. I can never get enough turkey, dressing and cranberry sauce, and you did a great job getting so many meals served so quickly.

In addition to the wonderful meal, there were many beautiful handmade items, crafts, art and food available for purchase by those who wanted to get their Christmas shopping done early.

We had a three-for-one ribbon cutting last month, opening the Chickasaw Visitor Center, ARTesian Gallery and Studios, and Bedre' Café all in Sulphur, OK. The Visitor Center has a very warm and inviting feel where travelers can find out about everything Chickasaw Country has to offer. The Bedre' Café is a great place to get a gourmet coffee, enjoy lunch, or treat yourself to an ice cream sundae or shake. The ARTesian Gallery and Studio will be a popular place where artists can display and market their work as well as a place for interested learners and budding artists to attend workshops and take classes. For more information about the ARTesian Gallery, contact the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities at (580) 272-5520.

This will be a very special Christmas for us. It's our first one to celebrate with a grandchild, and we're ready for Santa's visit.

I hope you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I would love to hear from you. Please contact me with your concerns, needs or questions. I am here to help.

May God bless you and your family.
Toby Perkins, Legislator
Pontotoc District, Seat 1
580-399-2606
toby.perkins@chickasaw.net

Chickasaw Citizens Council offers opportunity to share information, connections

BETH ALEXANDER

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Merry Christmas! I am excited about the big event this year. Ever Grace will be old enough to get into the presents and mess with the tree. I am trying to hold my spending budget to under a cool $$million. It is amazing how many things I see that would be just right for the grandbaby!

In October, the Northern California Chickasaw Citizens Council held a picnic. While there I met Bill and Lin Morgan of Elk Grove, CA. Bill's Great Grandfather, John Taylor Potts, had a sister named Mary. I am a descendant of Mary. There lies the connection. On further investigation, Bill's wife Lin has a brother that lives in Durant and is the bass guitar player at my church. Talk about a small world! Many years ago Bill's cousin, Buddy Swindell was nice enough to assist me in locating the Love cemetery just east of present day Colbert, OK. Buddy had been a boy went the cemetery was in use. It still amazes me to be so far from home and end up visiting with a distant relative and his spouse. Both of them having connections back to Oklahoma

Loyd and Floyd Robertson

Here is another interesting encounter. At the Festival, I met Loyd and Floyd Robertson in front of the Chickasaw Capital. They were born in 1938 in Emet, Ok. to Mr. Earnest and Ava Mae Greenwood Robertson. Their father's parents, Oliver and Vera Robertson, raised them. (Their mother had died of pneumonia when the twins were two years old) Growing up the boys passed the Chickasaw White House daily on their way to school. Lloyd and Floyd, remember going to the Chickasaw Capital to obtain their driver's licenses in 1954. Back then the Capital was operating as the Johnston County Courthouse! Their family allotment is still in tact, located in Fillmore,Ok. Their mother, Ava had a brother named Virgil Greenwood and their parents were Barney and Maria Fillmore Greenwood. Both men married and had three children, 2 girls and 1 son. It must be that twin thing!

At the annual Elders Thanksgiving Feast, the Panola District had 41 total people there to represent our district! Yea! This is the second time we have had enough from our area to require the "Big Bus" for transportation to the event. Things were action packed at the dinner. Many booths and drawings were on hand for Christmas shopping. One of the most interesting drawings of the day was a chance on a "Chickasaw Cake". Karen Myer spent approx. 15 hours decorating it. It was so detailed and eye catching. My picture doesn't do it justice. (To see more pictures about this month's article go to www.chickasawbeth.com I am so proud of the Achille/Panola District Seniors for making the trip and participating in Tribal Events.

Until next month,

Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing. I Thessalonians 5:11

Beth Alexander (580) 283-3409

Lin and Bill Morgan

Karen Myer

Sharing family stories with others brought out humor, experience, survival and love

KATIE CASE

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello Everyone:

OK, I have to confess. I am not a "techie." You know, I like having a smart phone so I am just a call or text away from family and friends most any time and most anywhere. Email and Facebook are good ways to stay connected and I'm learning to use Twitter. If all goes well, I'll be snap chatting with the grandkids soon. But, I don't think that I will be depositing checks, routing trips or GPS-tracking my family any time soon. It is possible to get too much of a good thing. LOL (Laugh Out Loud).

Really, I appreciate technology and how it helps us be more efficient in our communications. I, however, also really appreciate face-to-face communication and learning by sharing personal experiences and family stories.

Recently, I was asked to lead a "story telling" breakout session at a women's conference titled "Celebrating Your Significance." The conference was held at East Central University in Ada, had a good slate of topics and knowledgeable presenters, and was greatly received by 300 or more attendees.

Ultimately, we had a great time and learned a lot. But, I've got to tell you, I was concerned when I was first asked to lead a session on story telling. I thought, 'I love our family stories because they are about people to whom, and place to which, I am connected.' Honestly, I didn't think the stories would mean much to others.

Fortunately, I couldn't have been more wrong. People listened to, and showed interest in, the stories about my Grandpa. A friend's story about the little people's use of woven baskets to teach a lesson on pride was a favorite of the participants. My granddaughter, Erin, told her favorite story. It is a funny family story about commodity cheese that we call "The Big Cheese Incident." Our family stories were a hit and, more importantly, conference attendees began to share their stories. Some told stories during the breakout session and some shared stories with me afterward. They were all wonderful.

Embedded in the stories are humor, examples of survival, perseverance and love. There are illustrations of sacrifice and lessons of tolerance and loyalty.

In our stories, we discover wisdom from our past, and we also find road maps for our present and for the future.

I encourage you to share your stories. The holidays are upon us. It is a great time for families to get together and share stories.

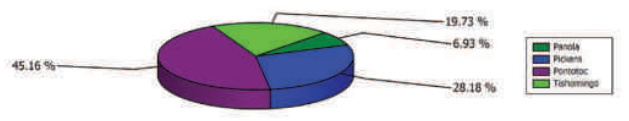
Ask others to share their stories with you, and the next time we meet, please share one with me.

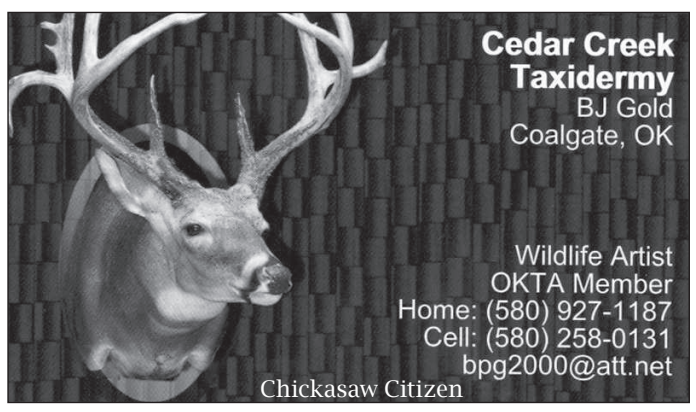
If you want, call me or text me a story. I can handle that much technology. LOL!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,
Katie

Count of Voters by District

Panola	2,018	Pontotoc	13,155
Pickens	8,209	Tishomingo	5,747
			29,129





Plenty of Christmas fun holiday activities planned throughout December in Chickasaw Nation

NANCY ELLIOTT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chokma, Chinchokma, Hello, How are you?

Christmas is a special time in the Chickasaw Nation. I hope you and your family will make an extra effort to get out and enjoy the sights and sounds of the holidays. From the Christmas lights that surround the Headquarters and our Chickasaw Medical Center to the special lighting celebration at the Cultural Center, there are many activities in which you can participate all month long.

Take the opportunity to visit our Legislative Building, if you are in Ada, as it will be beautifully decorated for the holidays, as will many of our other facilities.

There will be visits from Santa for the kids in the Oklahoma City area on December 3, Johnston County on Dec. 5, and at the Ada Agri-plex on Dec. 12.

Something new this year is a live radio play, It's A Wonderful Life, which will be performed at the McSwain Theater on Dec. 13. On Dec. 14, Santa will be visiting the Chickasaw White House in Emet, which will be decked out in its holiday finery to remind us of life during simpler times.

The Annual Elders' Christmas Dinner will be at the Ada Agri-plex on Dec. 20, and there will be a special Christmas show at the McSwain on Dec. 21, featuring our own Jae L. Stillwell and Crossover.

I'm sure I've left out some, so check the website calendar for more information.

Hope to see you this month at one or more of these activities.

I wish you and your family a Very, Merry Christmas, and remember, Jesus is the reason for the season! Let me know if I can help you in any way.

Chipisala' cho anowa, Until I see you again,

Nancy

Senior citizens' dinner was the largest ever; new facilities now open to welcome our visitors

MARY JO GREEN

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District. November seemed like a short month with the Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving holidays. It wasn't, of course, and the legislative agenda was exciting! I hope that you read the minutes of the legislative sessions as they are printed in *the Chickasaw Times* each month.

Several Legislators attended the Oklahoma City Community Council meeting and enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. A large group attended.

We enjoyed the ribbon-cutting and tour of the tower hotel at Winstar and seeing the London portion of the casino that is now open for business. We also enjoyed ribbon cuttings at the Artesian Hotel Art Studio and the new Information Center in Sulphur. With the Chickasaw Cultural Center, Artesian Hotel and Art Gallery and the Information Center, Sulphur is truly a destination spot for visitors to the Chickasaw Nation.

The senior citizens' dinner held at the Ada Agriplex was huge with many elders turning out for the annual occasion. I never dreamed that the event would grow so large that it would outgrow the building, but it did. And the Friends of the Chickasaw Foundation art show and auction continues to grow each year.

Most of us look to this time of year as a time to spend with the family during Thanksgiving and the upcoming Christmas season. I wish all you Chickasaws a very Merry Christmas remembering that the greatest present given to man is the Son of God.

I would love to hear from you. My email address is mary.green@chickasaw.net and my address and telephone number are listed elsewhere in this and every issue of *the Chickasaw Times* and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. Until next time, I wish God's blessings on all of our people. Thank you.

National American Indian Heritage Month offers opportunity to study our unique and important history

SHANA HAMMOND

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

During the month of November each year, National American Indian Heritage Month is observed in the United States. It is important that we recognize this month with the children in our community – Indian and non-Indian. Several area schools celebrate in their own ways, by visiting the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur or by serving fry bread and pashofa.

As I recently worked on lining up activities at the school my children attend, I questioned how this observance began.

At the turn of the 20th Century, Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian and director of the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Rochester, New York, persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans." The Boy Scouts adopted a recognition day for three years. In 1915, at the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting, a plan was approved to call upon the country to observe American Indian Day. A proclamation was issued on September 28, 1915 declaring the second Saturday of each May as American Indian Day. It contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

In an attempt to have the White House proclaim an American Indian Day, a Blackfoot Indian, Red Fox James, rode horseback from state to state in 1914 seeking for approval to honor Indians. Governments from 24 states endorsed his attempt, although there is no record that his appeal was recognized by the White House. In 1916, the Governor of New York declared the second Saturday in May as American Indian Day. This was the first state to formally recognize it.

In 1990 President George H.W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

I encourage you to help your local schools educate our children about our heritage. It doesn't have to occur only during the month of November. Become involved in what is being taught to our children through their Social Studies and supplemental lessons.

The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows. ~Sydney J. Harris

Shana Tate Hammond
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shana.hammond@chickasaw.net

Donors, volunteers, friends honored during annual 'Friends of the Foundation' event

Chickasaw Foundation donors and volunteers were recognized recently during the "Friends of the Foundation" reception. The event was Nov. 15 at the Chickasaw Community Center in Ada.

Foundation executive director Johnna Walker opened the event and thanked those in attendance for their support. Kennedy Brown, chairman of the board of trustees for the Foundation, gave the welcome address and emphasized that the Chickasaw Nation's efforts in education have played an important part in the success the tribe experiences today.

"The Chickasaw Nation is enjoying good times," Mr. Brown said. "We see so many wonderful things happening around us that are so great for our nation."

Each year, the Foundation recognizes outstanding individuals who have made a difference through their contributions to the Chickasaw Nation. This year's award recipients included:

· **Volunteers of the Year** – Rhonda Ellett and Paul Baken

· **Circle of Friends Awards** – The Chickasaw Nation Division of Social Services and the Chickasaw Nation Ada Wellness Program

· **The Employee Charitable Contribution Plan (ECCP) Donor of the Year** – Chuck Dougherty

· **Patron of the Year** – Glenn Norris

· **Special Volunteer Recognition** – Deborah Hook and Checed Rodgers

In the past year, the Chickasaw Foundation awarded 69 scholarships totaling nearly $85,000.

During the reception, silent auction bids helped fund the Chickasaw Foundation's fine arts scholarship, given to a Native American student majoring in the fine arts. Auction items included several pieces of Native American art and gift baskets donated for the event.

The Chickasaw Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1971. Its mission is to promote the general welfare and culture of the Chickasaw people by supporting educational, health, historical and community activities and programs.

For more information about the Chickasaw Foundation, visit www.chickasawfoundation.org or call (580) 421-9030.

CONTRIBUTED BY Joshua Rogers, Public Affairs.

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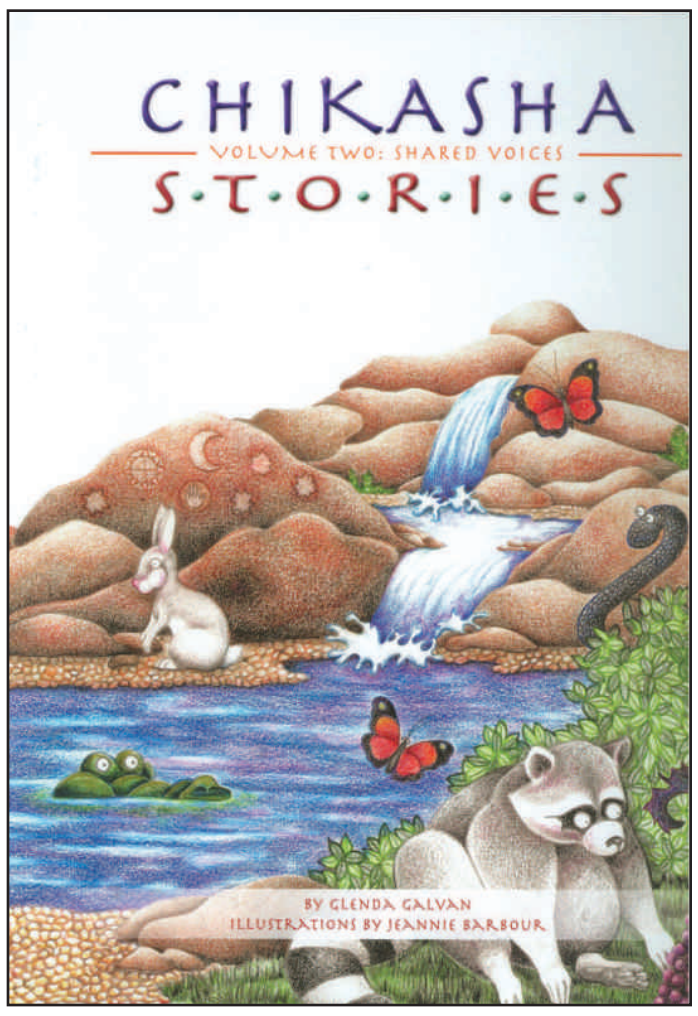
Susanne Fitzwater (405) 410-8788



Galvan's 'Chikasha Stories' nominated for Moonbeam

A volume in both Chickasaw and English has recently been nominated for a Moonbeam Children's Book Award.

"Chikasha Stories, Volume Two: Shared Voices" is the second in a three-part book series. The series is the first bilingual book series published by the Chickasaw Press.

In "Chikasha Stories," Chickasaw author Glenda Galvan shares five Chickasaw tales drawn from the tribe's oral traditions. The stories are accompanied by original, tradition-inspired illustrations by Chickasaw artist Jeannie Barbour. "Chikasha Stories" book series reflects the storytelling tradition so vital to the roots of Chickasaw culture and serves as an introduction to the Chickasaw language. Each story is told in both Chickasaw and English.

"Many 'Chikasha Stories' will be shared with children and adults around the world," Gov. Bill Anoatubby said. "This book can motivate many people to continue the tradition of storytelling as part of their family lives for generations to come."

About the Moonbeam Book Awards

The Moonbeam Children's Book Awards honor the year's best children's books, authors and illustrators. The program is open to authors, illustrators, and publishers of children's books written in English or Spanish and intended for the North American market.

About Chickasaw Press

The Chickasaw Press, a department of Chickasaw Nation History and Culture, publishes books on Chickasaw history, traditions and culture. For more information, please visit www.ChickasawPress.com or call (580) 436-7282. The Chickasaw Press is located at 1500 Hoppe Blvd., Suite 1, Ada, OK 74820.

CONTRIBUTED BY Nicole Walls, Public Affairs.

'Chikasha Stories' interactive eBook, audiobook and paperback versions planned for release

The Chickasaw Press plans to release an interactive eBook, audiobook and paperback version of "Chikasha Stories, Volume One: Shared Spirit."

"Chikasha Stories, Volume Three: Shared Wisdom" is now available through the Chickasaw Press by visiting www.ChickasawPress.com.

Children's Choir, School of Guitar students featured in Dec. 7 Holiday Concert

Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities presents a Holiday Concert, December 7 at 7 p.m. The concert will take place at the McSwain Theatre at 130 W. Main in Ada.

The Holiday Concert will feature the Chickasaw School of Guitar and Chickasaw Children's Choir students performing a selection of holiday favorites including "Let It Snow," "Joy to the World" and "Jingle Bells." A reception will follow at the McSwain Theatre.

For more information, call (580) 272-5520.

Famed Chickasaw performer discovered through photos, correspondence, clippings

Life of Te Ata found in Museum of Natural History archives

Te Ata and Clyde Fisher prepare to leave for Peru expedition.
(Image # 290422 American Museum of Natural History)

NEW YORK - The American Museum of Natural History in New York houses a unique Te Ata collection that details much of her life while married to Clyde Fisher, the first chairman of the Hayden Planetarium.

Te Ata was the famed Chickasaw dancer, actress and performer who spread Indian culture throughout the U.S. and the world in the 20th century. She performed for presidents, kings and queens and was acknowledged as one of the most unique artists of her day.

Te Ata was also a devoted and loving spouse who assisted her husband on many projects. From accompanying her scientist husband on expeditions to South America to receiving messages of condolence upon his death, the married life of Chickasaw princess Te Ata can be found in filing cabinets filled with photographs, letters, news clippings and telegrams.

When first approached about researching the museum's archives, noted astrophysicist and current director of the planetarium Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson said that Te Ata's story as a Chickasaw and as Fisher's wife was "a bit of American history about which I knew very little."

Thomas Baione, director of library services at the museum, confirmed that indeed there were many items in the library's research area that either featured or mentioned Te Ata.

"We have much additional information in the AMNH Library on Clyde Fisher and Te Ata in the form of photographs and even a film where Mrs. Fisher makes an appearance," Mr. Baione said. "I have to admit I don't know much about Te Ata, especially after Clyde Fisher died so I am happy to see that she lived a long time after Clyde Fisher."

One of the most interesting collections is a series of photographs taken while Te Ata was on an eclipse expedition to Peru in 1937, conducted by the museum and led by Fisher. While there, Te Ata often met dignitaries in her native dress.

In one photo, Te Ata is given a special flute by a local Quechua Indian in Peru. She is pictured taking a lesson on how to play the flute.

Other pictures on file show Te Ata getting ready to board the S.S. Santa Clara, standing with a young Panamanian boy who is holding a crab, and even raising the flag of The Explorer's Club at the eclipse station building in Peru.

The library also contains a silent film of a trip she took to Mexico when Fisher and other scientists filmed an erupting volcano. Te Ata is difficult to make out and is only featured possibly one time. However, the film credits her as one of the primary photographers.

Archivists at the library speculated that it is likely Te Ata photographed much of the action so the scientists on the expedition could have footage of them doing their work.

But there is more in the museum's library that may even tell a greater story of Te Ata and her connection to the museum through her husband. News clippings indicate she was a popular hostess for many events promoting construction of the Hayden Planetarium.

Te Ata and her husband also were part of the intellectual and artistic community in New York during the 1930s. Among the notable friends was famed scientist Albert Einstein. During this period, Te Ata was asked by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to perform for the King and Queen of England.

Buried in the filing cabinets were eight boxes of letters, cards, clippings and other notes that were sent to Te Ata or her husband during the years he led the planetarium's efforts. Many of the letters are requests for appearances or thanking them for participating in events.

Te Ata is pictured with a South American Indian who presented her with a flute native to his country and then taught her how to play it.
(Image # 290489 American Museum of Natural History)

One particularly sweet note found tucked away in one of the many files of papers was a note to the Reader's Digest dated Dec. 8, 1937, from W.M. Faunce, vice director of the museum:

Dear Mr. Duble:

Enclosed is a check for $2.26 covering a Christmas gift subscription to The Reader's Digest from Dr. Clyde Fisher to Te Ata – 41 W 72nd Street, New York, NY.

"It would easily take someone spending a week to go through everything we have to locate more Te Ata items," Mr. Baione said. "There are thousands of files where she might be included."

Among the most poignant items found in the files were the clippings and letters of condolence to Te Ata upon Fisher's death from fellow scientists and museum leaders.

On Feb. 3, 1949, the museum's board unanimously adopted a resolution to Te Ata. In part, it reads:

Dear Te Ata:

Resolved, that the Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History desire to express a deep and sincere sense of loss in the death on Jan. 7, 1949, of Dr. Clyde Fisher, Honorary Curator, Department of Astronomy and the Hayden Planetarium…Because of his unflagging efforts to establish a planetarium in new York City, Dr. Fisher has been identified as the man who "brought the stars to America."

Dr. Fisher's death takes from his colleagues at the Museum and the Hayden Planetarium a respected scientist, an irreplaceable teacher and a lovable man. The Trustees wish to extend their deepest sympathy to his family in this time of bereavement.

And on Aug. 1, 1949, Te Ata sent a telegram to the museum to be read to the Council of the Scientific Staff expressing her appreciation for the letter received from the museum expressing its sincere regret of the death of Dr. Fisher.

Dr. Fisher retired from the museum shortly before his death. Other than a few notes to Te Ata expressing sympathy, pictures and other information on her are not to be found.

CONTRIBUTED BY Deborah Large, Public Affairs.

Te Ata is pictured with a Panamanian boy during her 1937 trip to South America.
(Image # 290418 American Museum of Natural History)

Te Ata, in full Native dress, is pictured with a South American leader during her 1937 trip to Peru as part of the American Museum of Natural History's expedition.
(Image # 290472 American Museum of Natural History)

Chickasaw family, Great Depression, World War II shaped Jeraldine Brown's legacy

Chickasaw elders' life reflects continued service to others

Mrs. Jeraldine Brown at her Edmond home.

Jacquelyn Sparks

Chickasaw Jeraldine Brown as a member of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, from 1943-1945. Selected for the top-secret mission of developing and printing photos from bomber cameras, she was assigned to the Pentagon and was on duty the day the U.S. B-29 bomber Enola Gay dropped the first atomic bomb on Japan during World War II.

EDMOND, Okla. - Visitors to the bustling OU Medical Center emergency room are frequently assisted by Chickasaw elder Jeraldine "Jerry" Brown.

The petite, effervescent 92-year-old dons her pink smock three days a week to help keep things operating smoothly at the suburban hospital.

Most hospital guests don't realize one important fact. Service to others is nothing new to Mrs. Brown.

She has a lifelong legacy of service. Service to her country, service to her family and service to enhancing the education of Oklahoma's youth.

Mrs. Brown's story began Oct. 28, 1921, when she was born the third child of Annie Rennie Colbert-Meek and Alymer Hightown Meek.

Named "Jeraldine" upon her sister Lawanna's request to name the baby in memory of her best friend, Mrs. Brown has lived a remarkable nine decades.

"I was named Jeraldine Virginia Meek, but they just always called me Jerry," she said.

A lifelong Oklahoma City metro area resident, Mrs. Brown knew about her Chickasaw heritage at a young age.

"I remember spending time in Purcell with my grandparents, at least every other Sunday," Mrs. Brown said.

She remembers the time Mr. Colbert, the grandfather she adored, served as McClain County Commissioner.

When he was county commissioner in the Depression era, "Grandmother never knew who he was bringing home for lunch, so she always had a pot of beans on the stove."

Her grandmother's motto was, "You can always feed boys and men if you have beans to subsidize the meal."

Her grandfather was commissioner when the "new bridge" – later named James C. Nance Memorial Bridge which spans the Canadian River and connects Purcell and Lexington – was dedicated in 1938. To date, the bridge is one of the longest in the state. It opened in a gala event that Mrs. Brown witnessed.

"It was like a street fair," she said. "We were there for the opening of the bridge and the opening of the jail."

She remembers as a young child walking into the new McClain County Jail and her grandfather slammed the door shut, with a stern warning her not to break the law or she may end up in a place like the jail.

"He probably left me in there 30-40 seconds, and asked me how it felt to be in there. I told him I didn't like it!"

It startled her and made a lasting impression, she said, chuckling.

"I can hear that door clang shut now."

Chickasaw elder and U.S. Army veteran Jeraldine Brown is ready to help patients at OU Medical Center of Edmond, where the 92-year-old volunteers several days a week.

"My mother would say, 'Remember that you are Chickasaw.'"

Jeraldine "Jerry" Brown

"My mother would say, 'Remember that you are Chickasaw.' When I would ask her about my nationality, my mother would say 'Chickasaw and some other things,' which happened to the Irish and Dutch," she said.

Chickasaw pride ran deep in her mother's family. Her grandfather, Joseph Edwin Colbert, was the first secretary of the Chickasaw legislature in Indian Territory from 1902-1907.

Connecting with her Chickasaw heritage meant regular Sunday dinners with her Colbert family in their hometown.

Bloomfield Stories

Her mother enrolled in Bloomfield Chickasaw girls' boarding school at age 11 and attended until a year after she graduated.

"She would tell us about her time there and would paint these beautiful pictures in my imagination of Bloomfield."

Bloomfield Academy was established by the Chickasaw Nation in 1852 near present day Durant, Okla., as a boarding school for Chickasaw girls. It remained in operation until January 1914 when the school was destroyed by fire.

She remembers her mother saying the girls were required to speak English and dress for dinner at Bloomfield. "They were taught to blend into society, taught violin and piano," she said. "They played three-court basketball a long black skirt and a long-sleeve white shirt."

When Mrs. Brown was a child and did something "horrible," her mother would threaten to send her to boarding school as punishment for disobeying.

"Well, after all the wonderful things she told us about Bloomfield, I wanted to go to boarding school, so I would do it again," she laughed.

Up until her death, her mother attended the "Beautiful Bloomfield Blossoms" reunion every Christmas.

Education – Continuing her Mother's Legacy

Education was a top priority in the Meek household.

Mrs. Brown attended Classen High School in Oklahoma City and graduated in 1939. She played field hockey and volleyball and contributed to the school's Latin newspaper.

"There was never any question I was going to college," she said.

Despite the death of her father when she was 17, Mrs. Brown enrolled at Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University) to study education.

Arriving at school with $100 in her pocket, she worked several jobs to pay her way through school. She worked in the dining hall and as a proctor at Murray Hall, where she was paid 25 cents an hour. Other jobs included tutoring a student in Latin.

She also helped her legally-blind roommate learn music by reading the notes, a skill she learned from her mother. The roommate would transcribe the notes in Braille. They remained friends for 40 years.

She was also member of the Aggie Pep Squad and an "Aggiette" cheerleader her senior year.

She graduated in 1943 from Oklahoma A&M with a bachelor's degree in education.

Living History - Service to her Country

Two months after earning a college degree, she enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

Among the reasons she decided to join was to keep her brother-in-law, who was a father, from having to go fight. Another reason - she felt a call to duty.

She reported to basic training July 1, 1943.

Two years later, she was one of the first people to witness the devastation of the atomic bombs the U.S. had dropped on Japan.

Selected for the top-secret mission because she took a photography class in college, Mrs. Brown was ultimately assigned to the Pentagon where her duties involved developing and printing photos from the bombers.

"You could see the flack and trace the bomb drop," she said. "You got the whole story on those huge rolls of film. We didn't want to ruin a roll of film because the fellows were risking their lives."

She was on duty the day the U.S. B-29 bomber Enola Gay dropped the first atomic bomb on Japan during World War II.

"We were asked to work late and told we had some special film coming in, she said.

"We were not allowed to talk to anyone and we were under armed guard. Until (photos of the devastation) came up on the printer, we didn't understand why.

You could see the (bomb) drop and every frame would be closer, and the tail camera would capture the devastation. The devastation to the land was so much more intense. We were used to seeing buildings knocked down, but what we saw there was just blocks and blocks of devastation. It was so much more intense."

Continuing Service to Others

She was discharged from the Army the day after Thanksgiving 1945. She returned to Oklahoma, where she married her best friend's uncle, Syl Meek.

"He met me at the train," she said.

The couple married in 1946 and had two children. Moving to Edmond, she spent the next few years working part-time as a second grade teacher and a substitute teacher.

When her children were 15 and 11, she returned to school to earn a master's degree.

A job teaching sixth grade soon followed. It was a position she would keep until 1973, but she continued to substitute…until she turned 90.

These days, Mrs. Brown can be found at the OU Medical Center in Edmond, working as a volunteer.

She was named "Volunteer of the Year" in 2012, and she is passionate about working at the hospital, with no plans to slow down.

Her secret to staying young-at-heart? Swimming! A skill she learned at Turner Falls in Davis at age five.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

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Chickasaw plum was important food source for early Chickasaws; plant is excellent addition to modern gardens

Chickasaw plum historic part of flora of the Chickasaw Nation

A Chickasaw Sand Plum thicket shimmers in the afternoon sun near Seeley Chapel in Johnston County.

Wild Chickasaw plum trees grow in large thickets. The cherry-sized plum turns red when ripe and is eaten raw, or used to make jelly, pies, preserves and wine.

Plums are grown everywhere in the world. The hardy trees that produce the fruit are perennials and have been grown by people since agrarian culture began. The sweet-tart tasting Chickasaw plum comes from a tree that was first cultivated by Native American tribes.

Chickasaw plums were used for food by Chickasaws and other Native people long before the arrival of Europeans. William Bartram, a respected naturalist of the late 1700s, cataloged plants, animals and customs of the people he encountered.

Bartram wrote of the Chickasaw plum, "*The Chicasaw plumb I think must be accepted, for though certainly a native of America, yet I never saw it wild in the forests, but always in old deserted Indian plantations: I suppose it to have been brought from the S. W. beyond the Missisippi , by the Chicasaws.*"

Oklahoma State University Extension Educator Justin McDaniel has high praise for the fruit.

"The Chickasaw plum is great," Mr. McDaniel said. "The Chickasaws used this plum as one of their predominant food sources. That's why they got that name. The early Native American tribes relied on this indigenous plum as a food source."

Hardy in nature, the Chickasaw plum tree occurs naturally in Southern states. On the East Coast, it grows deep into New England, and its habitat stretches into Canada on the West Coast. The trees grow wild, but they continue to be cultivated. They are great landscape additions to lawns, parking lots and along roadsides.

Growing to a height of more than 20 feet, the Chickasaw plum is used to make jelly, pies, preserves and wine. The plum is about the size of a cherry and ripens well before early July. It attracts birds, squirrels and deer that use the tree for both food and shelter.

"The plum is safe to eat," Mr. McDaniel said. "You can eat them while they are yellow, but they're pretty bitter and sour. Once they have turned red, they are great to eat. They make great preserves."

According to research published by Oklahoma State University, the Chickasaw plum serves many purposes within Oklahoma. For ranchers, large thickets of Chickasaw plums provide shade for cattle and other livestock, which can increase performance during the summer.

"In some instances, the Chickasaw plum can be considered invasive," Mr. McDaniel said. "They do so well that some land owners have to do a little control to keep them from taking over pastures."

Found in the wild, wildlife managers make judgment calls for specific growing areas. Left unchecked, the Chickasaw plum will grow into wide thickets. These thickets are great for nesting birds, deer and small animals, but can take space away from grasslands.

Chickasaw plum in the home garden

The Chickasaw plum is perfect for home gardens. This ornamental tree blooms in late winter and early spring. The many small white flowers emit a pleasant aroma. When the tree fruits and the plums begin to fall to the ground, there is very little litter problem.

The many small white flowers of the Chickasaw plum tree emit a pleasant aroma and area great addition to home gardens.

Photo provided by Jeremy Anderson/discoverlife.org.

"The Chickasaw plum is good for home gardens," McDaniel said. "They don't need much room to grow. Often they are seen in islands. They don't require much care."

This plum tree grows well in both full sun and shaded areas. It is able to grow in most soils, including clay and loose sand. It is drought, pest and disease resistant.

"If you think about Oklahoma, we are pretty diverse area," Mr. McDaniel said. "We really see them in the central part of the state. We have good sandy soil and moderate rainfall. They are a hardy shrub that can take different growing conditions, like the drought we have seen the last two years."

The tree's root system requires water drainage. Waterlogged soil can damage the roots. Roots rising to the surface are not a worry for this tree. The tree is good for erosion control for fine and sandy soils, and the root system can grow in areas not hospitable to other plants and trees.

"The Chickasaw plum is not the best for soil erosion or reclamation programs because their roots are not extensive," Mr. McDaniel said. "But the sandy soil they like may not support other plants. They will grow in pretty harsh conditions. They do help in those extreme sandy soil types."

Pruning is required for clearance under the tree canopy and to provide additional strength to the trunk. The height of the Chickasaw plum can be controlled with regular pruning, perfect for planting under power lines. A naturally droopy tree, the Chickasaw plum requires pruning to increase the strength of branches and make them resistant to breakage.

Chickasaw plums are usually introduced into a home garden by seeds, seedlings or transplanted as small trees to a new location. Once planted, little care is required. The Chickasaw plum is self pollinating; a single tree will bear fruit. With normal lawn mowing and weed control, new trees will not appear.

As an American tree, most local nurseries will be able to order and help with the growing and care for a new tree.

"Overall, the Chickasaw plum is a great shrub to plant for the home garden," Mr. McDaniel said. "It is hardy, easily controlled and bears fruit. It grows pretty fast, it is resistant to drought, pests and disease."

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

'Chickasaw' is prized bucking bull

Australian father and son honor Chickasaw fighting spirit

Indians and cowboys are part of the American experience, and they are sometimes one in the same.

The two have been depicted together for so long in popular culture it is difficult to think of one without the other. Examples include Chickasaw rancher Montford Johnson or Chickasaw Hall of Fame member the late Ken Lance, where the lines between cowboy and Indian blur.

Movies, songs and art have made the two groups virtually inseparable in American Western folklore.

And, that American folklore spans the globe.

Father-and-son team Trevor and Tony Dunne, owners of Dunne Farms in Queensland, Australia, are cattle ranchers. The two have visited the United States and understand the rich history of American Indian people and their impact on the American West.

In honor of Native Americans, the Dunnes have named one of their prized bucking bulls "Chickasaw."

"I have been over to America twice, in 2009 and 2011," Tony Dunne said. "I am a big fan of American history, especially the Native American tribes. I have friends over there who are Chickasaw."

As members of the Professional Bull Riders Association Australia (PBRA), Dunne Farms provides 16 to 22 bulls for PBRA events. Their bulls include "That's Gold," the only PBRA bull to win the Bucking Bull of the Year title three years in a row.

Chickasaw throws a Australian cowboy at one of the many Professional Bull Riders Australia events.

The Dunnes have high hopes "Chickasaw" will continue their legacy of producing prize winning rodeo rough stock.

"Chickasaw" weighs in at an impressive 1,450 pounds. He is six years old and has been flinging cowboys from his back for two years on the Australian pro rodeo circuit.

"Riders really like 'Chickasaw'," Mr. Dunne said. "He is a very fast and showy bull."

"Chickasaw" scores well during competitions, both for himself and for cowboys hanging on for dear life. He has been successfully ridden only five times. Scores on those five rides averaged 87-88 points, considered very high in rodeo circles.

For the cowboys who successfully complete an eight-second ride, four judges rate the bull and rider on a scale from 1-25. Points are added together and divided in half to reach a rider and bull score between 0-50. These numbers are then combined to reach a final score between 0-100. Combined scores of bull and rider that are above 90 are considered outstanding.

The bull always receives a score even if the rider is bucked off. Judges look for direction changes, spins, and kicks, movements forward to backward and right to left when scoring bulls. "Chickasaw" averages a score of 21.5 to 22.5 per ride. Riders unlucky enough to draw "Chickasaw" average three to four seconds aboard the huge animal. In order to finish in the money, riders must hold on for eight.

Although there aren't any plans for "Chickasaw" to make an appearance in the U.S., fans of professional bull riding will continue to see "Chickasaw" on television many more times as he continues his eight-second battles with the cowboys of Australia.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

Federal Reserve anniversary

Governor Bill Anoatubby, who serves on the board of the Oklahoma City Branch of the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank, recently attended a dinner honoring the Fed on its 100th birthday. The event was in Oklahoma City. Pictured with Gov. Anoatubby is Steve Agee, dean of the Oklahoma City University Meinders School of Business.

Continuing stewardship of natural resources a priority

Tribe closely monitors water quality within boundaries

Brent Shields is a physician of sorts. He checks the health of streams and rivers as they flow through the Chickasaw Nation.

Mr. Shields is a Chickasaw Nation Environmental Services technician. He goes about his daily rounds and shares information he gathers with state and federal environmental agencies.

"We monitor streams year-round," Mr. Shields said. "It's hot during the summer and cold during the winter. We have to be careful of snakes, poison ivy and hypothermia."

For the past 10 years, technicians have monitored creeks, streams and rivers within the Chickasaw Nation. Mr. Shields and his fellow technicians are not required by any state or federal agency to conduct water quality testing. They complete regular testing because the Chickasaw Nation desires its streams and rivers stay healthy and vibrant. The tribe utilizes grants provided through the federal Clean Water Act to assist it in being responsible stewards of its natural resources.

The tribal technicians closely monitor sites declared "impaired water systems" by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

"'Impaired' does not always mean bad or polluted," Environmental Specialist Ambrie Johnson said. "Many of the streams are classified as impaired simply because there has been little or no data collected on them."

Current monitoring sites include locations around Ada, Tishomingo and Sulphur. The rivers, streams and creeks are contained by two primary watersheds - Little Sandy and Clear Boggy.

"People are familiar with our Pennington Creek and the Blue River locations," Mr. Shields said. "The other sites are in rural and more remote locations."

Advanced equipment is used to gather samples measuring stream flow, temperature, pH balance, chloride and other data.

The team also uses equipment you might recognize from your garage or tool shed. Machetes and weed eaters come in pretty handy, particularly during the growing season. Thermal waders and protective clothes ward off hypothermia and stave off trench foot.

In the hinterlands, a slip, fall, snake bite or injury can be life-threatening. More than once, the tribe's monitoring team has experienced "can-you-hear-me-now" moments when weak cell tower signals make contact with the world non-existent.

"The hardest parts about water monitoring are the elements and locations," Mr. Shields said. "In summer, the locations become overgrown. I often have to cut paths through the brush to get to streams. In August, heat exhaustion is a concern. On more than one occasion, I have had run-ins with cottonmouth snakes, both in and out of the water."

Winter presents its own set of challenges.

"We monitor in cold weather as well," Mr. Shields said. "Temperatures can be below freezing. We have to have proper cold weather equipment to stay dry and warm as we work in the water. It is a dangerous time of the year."

Over the years, Chickasaw Nation water monitoring experts have consistently monitored 15 sites. Data collected will be used as baseline data for future generations to determine the overall health of the watersheds.

A highly advanced and delicate piece equipment, this monitoring sonde is placed in a stream by technician Cynthia Highfield.

Environmental Services has partnered with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to take water samples measuring water flow, chemistry and potentially harmful bacteria.

Technicians who make up the water program receive ongoing training and are certified by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. The proper use of the latest testing equipment, sampling techniques and data collection is utilized for precise data collection.

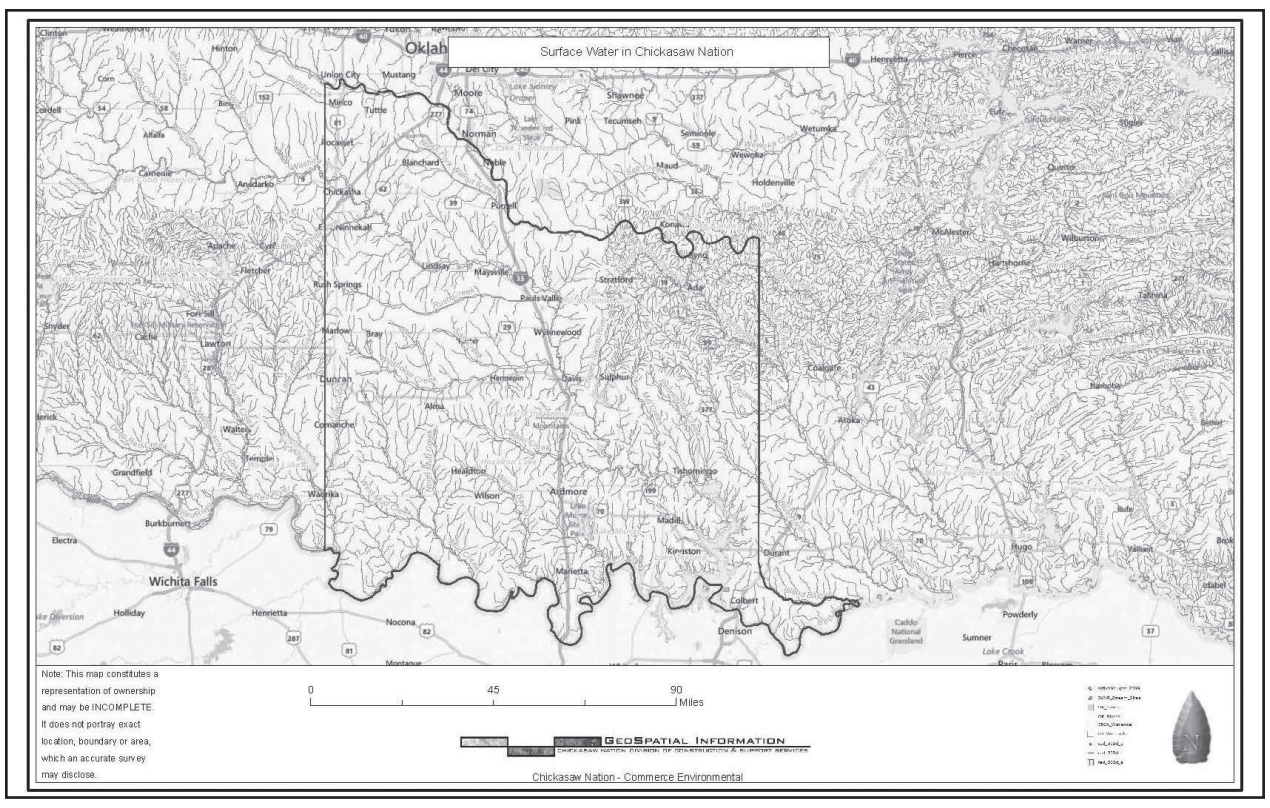
Training includes web-based seminars, national conferences and hands-on training in the field. The training provides for improved data collection and information.

"We use a lot of the same equipment methods as the USGS and EPA," Mr. Shields said. "We train with them and share information. We used to send our data to a private company for compilation. A few years ago, I was trained by the EPA to submit the data, which saves us a lot of money."

Environmental stewardship is important to the Chickasaw Nation. Ongoing community endeavors like environmental camps, planting trees and sponsoring Earth Day celebrations are important. The actual testing of the resources and collection and interpretation of the data is vital.

It's hard work. For environmental technicians working for Chickasaw Nation Environmental Services, stewardship means includes getting wet, breaking a sweat and braving extreme conditions.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.


Surface Water in Chickasaw Nation
Note: This map constitutes a representation of ownership and may be INCOMPLETE. It does not portray exact location, boundary or area, which an accurate survey may disclose.
0
45
90
Miles
GeoSpatial Information
Chickasaw Nation - Commerce Environmental

Water monitoring part of Clean Water Act

Water monitoring is made possible by the federal Clean Water Act Section 106. Section 106 provides regulatory context and mandates for water quality monitoring and assessment programs conducted by the Chickasaw Nation Environmental Services Department.

"The Chickasaw Nation was one of the first tribal governments to conduct a watershed monitoring project within its lands," Mr. Johnson said. "Our water monitoring grant allows the protection of public health and gives us an idea about water quality trends within the Nation. The information collected can now be used to compare samples if emerging ecological damage begins to occur or if we have a sudden emergency pollution event."

The water monitoring program conducted by the Chickasaw Nation has specific goals. These include continued monitoring within EPA guidelines, reporting and regular training of personnel. In the future, community outreach will include water quality education for members of the community who reside within the Chickasaw Nation.

"The overall goal is to have high water quality within the Chickasaw Nation," Mr. Johnson said. "We monitor so that water pollution can be controlled, or eliminated, within our jurisdictional boundaries."

October marks first month of tribe's fiscal year

FINANCIAL REPORT

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Division of Commerce. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of tribal government, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Business revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes and other sales revenues from convenience stores, travel plazas, tobacco stores, other tribal businesses as well as rental and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, *the Chickasaw Times* and Governor's and Lt. Governor's offices. Expenditures for education include education scholarships as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending October 31, 2013

Tribal Government

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled $14.78 million for the month and $14.78 million year-to-date. Expenditures were $8.1 million for the month and $8.1 million year-to-date.

Chickasaw Businesses

Revenue net of gaming prizes through October totaled $96.4 million. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was $14.4 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

Statement of Net Assets

At October 31, 2013, the tribal government funds had $229 million in cash and investments. Of this amount, $19.9 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had $155.5 million in cash and investments which is reserved for accounts payable and business operations.

As of October 31, 2013, tribal operations, excluding federal program funding, had net assets of $1.6 billion.

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the One Month Ended October 31, 2013

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	$	740,440	96,445,338	97,185,778
Transfers from businesses to tribal government		14,780,212	(14,780,212)	-
Total funds available		15,520,651	81,665,126	97,185,778
Expenditures				
General government		552,496		
Legislature		239,611	-	239,611
Judiciary		97,917	-	97,917
Education		1,333,853	-	1,333,853
Heritage Preservation		1,234,030	-	1,234,030
Health		736,157	-	736,157
Youth Services		565,213	-	
Family Services		818,524	-	818,524
Nutrition Programs		431,772	-	431,772
Regulatory		759,251	-	759,251
Assistance Programs		1,364,327	-	1,364,327
Gaming expense		-	56,848,771	56,848,771
Other businesses' expense		-	25,158,707	25,158,707
Total expenditures		8,133,152	82,007,478	89,022,920
Increase in net assets		7,387,499	(342,351)	7,045,148
Beginning net assets		700,938,553	922,262,125	1,623,200,678
Ending net assets	$	708,326,052	921,919,774	1,630,245,826

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Net Assets
October 31, 2013

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Cash and Investments	$	229,098,122	155,501,297	384,599,419
Receivables		30,842,891	51,993,527	82,836,418
Inventory		87,170	8,040,115	8,127,285
Prepaid expenses		-	15,456,520	15,456,520
Other Assets		-	1,202,500	1,202,500
Fixed assets		449,198,650	857,397,088	1,306,595,737
Less payables		(900,781)	(167,671,273)	(168,572,054)
Net Assets	$	708,326,052	921,919,774	1,630,245,825

BIRTHS

Juliana Jones

Juliana Jones was born July 9, 2013 at Slidell, La., to Dugan and Jody Jones.

She weighed 6 lbs., 12 oz., at birth.

She has a brother, Brayden, 3.

She is the paternal granddaughter of Tommy and Pam Jones, of Kingston, Okla. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Sterling and Madeline Johnson.

Her aunts are Sara Jones, of Ada, Okla., and Brian and TJ Harkins, of Kingston.

Justin Havern tops in Kroger bagging contest

Justin Havern

Justin Havern recently won first place in Kroger's District 6 Bagging Competition Sept. 28 at Kroger's Signature Store – Sterling Ridge in The Woodlands, Texas.

Justin won $150 and a trophy.

He has worked at the Alden Bridge Kroger in The Woodlands for four years. Justin is a student at Lone Star College.

BIRTHDAYS

Breana Ridenhour

Breana Ridenhour celebrated her 18th birthday Nov. 21, 2013.

Breana is a senior at Western Heights High School in southwest Oklahoma City. She was elected co-captain for the varsity cheerleading squad and has been cheering for the Jets for five years. The squad made first runner-up in 5A at regionals competition in Chickasha and placed eighth at the state competition in Stillwater at the Gallagher-Iba Arena. The squad has also been selected to compete at nationals in Dallas, in January.

We wish Breana and her squad the Best of Luck! Go Jets!

Breana has also been selected for this year's homecoming court.

Breana is the daughter of James and Amy Cox. She is the granddaughter of Al and Linda Morton and the great-granddaughter of Nathaniel and the late LoEva Thomas.

She is the sister of Wesley Ridenhour, a freshman at Western Heights.

She is an awesome young lady and I am so proud of what she has accomplished and the kind of person she is, she never ceases to amaze me with everything she puts her heart into doing!

I love you, Bre.

Rylan and Ralee Collins

Ralee Alissa and Rylan Kay Collins turned one year old, October 25. The identical twins celebrated October 26 at Baker's Pumpkin Patch in Tishomingo, Okla., with family and family friends.

Cake, ice cream, sandwiches, train rides, petting zoo was enjoyed by all.

The twins are the daughters of Derek and Rachael Collins. They are the younger sisters of Redek Lee Collins.

They are the granddaughters of Vicky and Bill Gold, Tammy and Eddie Collins and Buddy Tartsah.

Happy Birthday Ralee and Rylan. We were truly blessed the day you girls were born!

Kiamichi Leyva graduates from Le Cordon Bleu

Kiamichi Shawnea Leyva

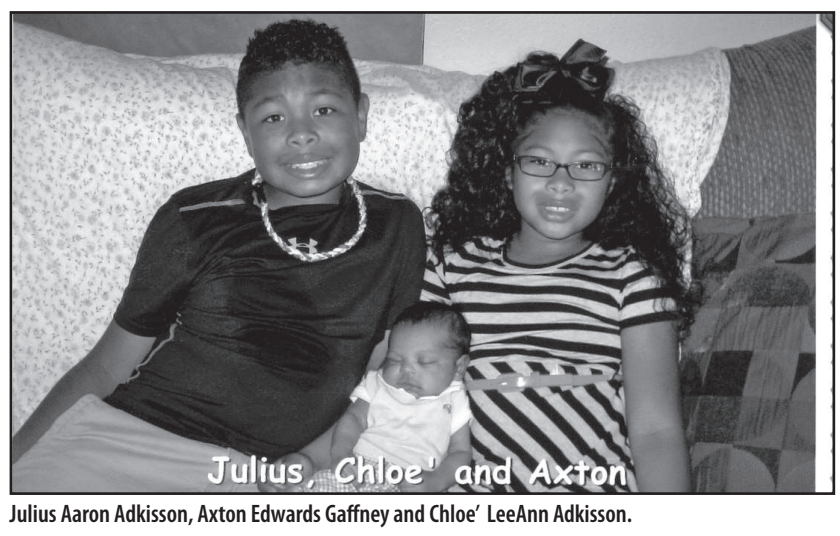
DALLAS - Kiamichi Shawnea Leyva, a Chickasaw, is a 2013 graduate of the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu.

Ms. Leyva, 19, Sept. 29 with a degree in patisserie and baking. She attended Le Cordon Bleu in Dallas and completed her externship at Fix It with Frosting in Midland, Texas. She is now the head baker for Fix It with Frosting.

Ms. Leyva is the daughter of Gil and Michelle Trevino and Chris and Tina Leyva, and the mother of Myan Walton. She is the granddaughter of Jackie Walton and the great-granddaughter of Myrt Leyva and aunt to Isabella Perez.

Ms. Leyva expresses her gratitude to her family and the Chickasaw Nation Vocational Scholarship Program. Thank you to everyone who supported her so she could accomplish this achievement.

A special thanks to Josh Vizcaino for making sure she made it to school every day!



Julius Aaron Adkisson, Axton Edwards Gaffney and Chloe' LeeAnn Adkisson.

Axton Edwards born at Chickasaw Nation Medical Center

What a blessing the Lord has bestowed upon our family and the enjoyment of having loving and wonderful grandchildren, Julius Aaron Adkisson, Chloe' LeeAnn Adkisson and Axton Edwards Gaffney. Axton Edwards is our newest addition. He was born July 1, 2013, and weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 18.5 inches. He was delivered at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada, Okla.

The family extended special thanks to the OBGYN staff at CNMC and Ada Baptist Church family for prayers, visits and gifts.

Julius, Chloe', and their mother, Penny, came to visit and welcomed their new baby, Axton, and they say "thank you" to their Auntie Pat (Putchie) for making it possible with a wonderful and short plane ride.

The family also is proud of Julius for being selected a 2013 McKenzie (Tenn.) All-Star baseball player. Julies thanked his Moshe' Irv for traveling to Jackson, Tenn., to watch him play in the Championship All-Star playoff games. Chloe' and Axton said "thank you and may God richly bless all" to their Great Auntie Pat Mayer, Aunt Ellen Cole, Aunt Jan Twist, Aunt Pam Cole, Great Moshe' Ernest Cole, Moshe' Irv Cole, Moshe' Sherman Cole, Moshe' Terry Cole, Papa and Nana Anderson for hosting a huge and wonderful cookout, birthday party and baby shower at Wardville, Okla., on July 13. They also thanked their cousins and friends for attending and for all the gifts given them.

Julius, Chloe' and Axton are proud of their Chickasaw/Choctaw heritage and are members of the Chickasaw Nation. The family is proud of Julius and Chloe' being on the Chickasaw Honor Club. Both thanked Gov. Anoatubby for providing them opportunities to participate in the Honor Club.

Julius is in fourth grade and Chloe' is in third grade at McKenzie Elementary School. They are the children of Penny Adkisson and Derrick "D.P." Palmer, McKenzie, and Jason Adkisson, also of McKenzie. The proud parents of Axton Edwards are Anita Anderson and Robert Gaffney, both of Ada, Okla. Axton's Nana and Papa are Regina and Gary Anderson, of Ada. Their great grandmother is Maggie Anderson, Coalgate.

Linda Hogan

Linda Hogan delivers keynote address in Taiwan

Former Chickasaw Nation Writer in Residence Linda Hogan recently gave a keynote address at National Yet Sun University in Kaosiun, Taiwan.

The conference was on "Migrants and Their Memories." Professor Hogan's keynote was on Chickasaw Removal and some of the stories that followed, including those discovered in her research on Chickasaw history for a book on re-envisioning the tribal past.

She also read and spoke for students at the University, discussing the significance of creativity and writing in the humanities.

Two weeks before the presentations in Taiwan, Prof. Hogan was a speaker at the annual South Dakota Book Festival, and participated in an interview with Norma Wilson for National Public Radio's Story Corps. She also gave a reading and class at Oglala Lakota College, a tribal school.

In both locations, she answered questions about her own novels and poetry.

Lucas Cheadle

Lucas Cheadle presents dissertation at Yale

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – Lucas Cheadle, Chickasaw, of Ada, Okla., recently presented a dissertation and successfully defended his thesis at Yale University.

Mr. Cheadle's dissertation was titled "The Cytoskeletal Regulator FARP1 Organizes Synapse and Dendrite Development." He completed the requirements for a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Neuroscience on Nov. 6.

On March 1, 2014, he will join the Greenberg Laboratory at Harvard University as a Post-Doctoral researcher.

Mr. Cheadle is the son of Robert and Darlene Cheadle, of Ada and Cheryl Cheadle, of Glenpool, Okla. He attended Vanoss High School near Ada through his sophomore year, then attended the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, from which he graduated in 2001. He received a bachelor's degree in Neuroscience from Smith College in Northampton, Mass., in 2005.

Mr. Cheadle was employed as a researcher at California Institute of Technology before returning to graduate school at Yale. While at Yale, he was a National Science Foundation Fellow.

Mr. Cheadle sincerely appreciates the assistance provided by the Chickasaw Nation.

"I received assistance from the Chickasaw Nation throughout my academic career and am very thankful that Governor Anoatubby has invested so much in educational benefits," he said. "The scholarships and other awards were critical in helping me to attain my goals, as they are helpful to many other Chickasaw scholars."

Oklahoma State University honors Dr. Amanda Cobb-Greetham with award for teaching excellence

Amanda Cobb-Greetham (center) with Dean of Arts and Sciences Brett Danilowicz.

STILLWATER, Okla. – Oklahoma State University recently honored faculty member Amanda Cobb-Greetham, Ph.D., a Chickasaw, with the prestigious Wise-Diggs-Berry Award for Teaching Excellence in the Arts.

The award is based on teaching evaluations and letters from students. The award was presented to Dr. Cobb-Greetham at the College of Arts and Sciences Fall Convocation in October.

Dr. Cobb-Greetham currently serves as a tenured Associate Professor of English at Oklahoma State University, specializing in Native American Studies.

She is editor of one of the foremost peer-reviewed journals in Native American Studies, American Indian Quarterly. Additionally, she is editor of the Chickasaw Press, the first tribal publishing house of its kind.

After receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma in 1997, Dr. Cobb-Greetham served as an Assistant Professor at New Mexico State University and then as a tenured Associate Professor at the University of New Mexico. She returned home in January 2007 to serve the Chickasaw Nation as the Administrator of the Division of History and Culture. From 2007 to 2012 she directed the Chickasaw Nation's museums, libraries and archives, language programs, the Chickasaw Press and launched the state-of-the-art Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, Okla.

Dr. Cobb-Greetham is the author of Listening to Our Grandmothers' Stories: The Bloomfield Academy for Chickasaw Females, 1852-1949 (2000; 2008) selected as a winner of the American Book Award. With Jeannie Barbour and Linda Hogan, she authored Chickasaws: Unconquered and Unconquerable (2006), the first book published by the Chickasaw Press. In addition, she co-edited a collection of essays with Amy Lonetree titled The National Museums of the American Indian: Critical Conversations (2008).

Dr. Cobb-Greetham is the daughter of John and Pat Cobb, of Ardmore, Okla.

Raychael Harjo

Raychael Harjo competes with Lady Bombers

Chickasaw Raychael Harjo is shown with one of three national trophies awarded to the Oklahoma Lady Bombers elite 2012 basketball team. Raychael was a member of the squad that finished first in all three of the Division I Championships at 4th Grade Nationals. Tournaments were in Florida, Texas and Oklahoma. Raychael is the daughter of Ronnie and Tracy Harjo, of Norman, Okla., and the great granddaughter of the late Rosa B. Walker of Ada, Okla.

Logan Renae James

Logan Renae James takes home awards

Logan Renae James, 13, has been bringing home a slew of awards through the National American Miss Pageants.

Logan, daughter of Anita and Chad James, earned the opportunity to attend nationals by finishing first in the Volunteer Service Award. She was born in Oklahoma and is Chickasaw, but competed in the pageant from Texas where she and her family call College Station home.

The pageant organization is dedicated to celebrating America's greatness and encouraging future leaders with awards in cash, scholarships and prizes to assist young women nationwide.

Logan has received awards in singing, theatre, cheerleading, student council representative, volunteering at Aggieland Humane Society as a pet adoption counselor, is a junior lifeguard and Relay for Life volunteer.

Since 2012, she has been cited as National American Miss Texas Pre-Teen State Finalist; Texas Pre-Teen State Ambassador; Texas Pre-Teen Top 20 and National Finalist; Texas Pre-Teen State Finalist; Texas Pre-Teen First Place Volunteer Service Award Winner and, in 2013, as Texas Pre-Teen National Finalist.

Harlee Griffis

Harlee Griffis top hitter for Sulphur Lady Bulldogs

When Chickasaw citizen Harlee Griffis steps up to the plate, defenders step back.

Harlee, a senior at Sulphur (OK) High School, went 65 for 111 at-bats this season for a .586 average. Her on-base percentage was .684. She scored 59 runs, batted in 22 runners and stole 39 bases in 41 attempts. Her fielding percentage was .977.

She is a four-year starter for the Sulphur Lady Bulldogs and served as the lead-off batter. She was been playing softball in the Sulphur Kids Association since she was three.

Among Ms. Griffis' many honors are:

- 2012 Adidas Future All-American
- 2012 ASA 16U Nationals top 25 finish
- 2012 Defensive Player of the Year
- 2012 Kansas City Memorial Day Tournament winner
- Two-time All *Ardmoreite* Super Team
- Three-time All Conference
- 2013 Lake Country Conference Most Valuable Player
- 2013 All State second baseman

She is a member of the Lake Country Conference Champion Softball Team and 2012 state quarter-finalist team and is a member of the 2013 State Champion Basketball team. She is a member of the Sulphur Crossway Baptist Church.

Harlee is the daughter of Mark and Misty McDonough, of Sulphur, and Scott and Tiffany Griffis, of Wister, Okla. Her grandparents are Larry and Linda Williams, of Sulphur, and Mike and Sondra Griffis, of Wister.

Harlee Griffis crowned homecoming queen

Harlee Griffis

Harlee Griffis, a Chickasaw citizen, was crowned 2013 Football Homecoming Queen at Sulphur (OK) High School on Oct. 25.

Harlee is the daughter of Scott and Tiffany Griffis and Mark and Misty McDonough.

She is a senior and plans to attend Oklahoma Baptist University on a scholarship to play softball. She will work toward a degree in physical therapy.

Construction group honors Gov. Anoatubby

Governor Bill Anoatubby was presented a plaque Oct. 22 in appreciation of the tribe's support of the Construction Codes Education Coalition of Oklahoma.

Katelyn Randolph

Katelyn Randolph top Cherokee Strip pitcher

Katelyn Randolph has individual softball statistics that would make Ty Cobb blush.

The Chickasaw citizen was named 2013 Pitcher of the Year in the Cherokee Strip Conference; chalked up 22 wins as a sophomore pitcher at Ringwood (OK) High School; fanned 141 batters; batted .370 and brought home 38 base runners during the season. She helped lead her team to a district title in fast-pitch softball, a sport she has participated in since she was eight.

The accolades coming Katelyn's way include being a member of the 2012 Tri-County All Conference Team; named a 2013 Midwest All-Star, which put her on the radar of college recruiters; Ringwood High School Freshman Rookie of the Year in both softball and basketball, as well as Most Valuable Player for the Ringwood Summer League in the 2011 and 2012 season.

She is the daughter of Steve and Michelle (Kilcrease) Randolph. Her grandfather is Bobby Kilcrease and she is the great-granddaughter of Betty and Wade Kilcrease.

She hopes to play softball in college after graduating high school.

Mitch Martin elected missions executive for Mid-South Baptists

Dr. Mitch Martin, a Chickasaw Baptist minister, was recently elected Executive Director of Missions for the Mid-South Baptist Association, based in Memphis, Tenn. The organization has 170 Southern Baptist Churches across a four-state region – Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Kentucky.

Born in Stillwater, Okla., Dr. Martin is the son of Lloyd and Sharon Martin, of Shawnee, Okla.

Dr. Martin will be assisting churches from an area well known to the tribe. Ancient tribal grounds once known as Chickasaw Bluffs overlook the Mississippi River near Memphis. Tribal warriors controlled river traffic in that region for centuries and

Dr. Martin is honored to be based in the former homeland of his Chickasaw ancestors.

Kaitlyn Danielle Loafman

Kaitlyn Loafman named to UNM honor rolls

Chickasaw Kaitlyn Danielle Loafman has been named to the Dean's Honor Roll for both the 2012 and 2013 spring semesters at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. Ms. Loafman earned a 4.06 grade point average during the semesters.

In May, she was inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and is a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Jonathan Gipson

Jonathan Gipson runs Marine Corps marathon

Jonathan Gipson, a Chickasaw citizen and seven-year Chickasaw Nation employee as labor foreman for tribal properties, completed the 26.2-mile Marine Corps Marathon run recently in Arlington, Virginia. Mr. Gipson is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm.

He finished the race in 5 hours, 55 minutes. About 30,000 runners competed. Mr. Gipson thanked his family for encouraging him to enter the race, particularly his wife Laura. His father, Leonard, is full blood Chickasaw, and his mother, Eula, is half Choctaw and half Coushatta.

Pacific Northwest Community Council

On November 9, we were proud to have Miranda Elliott from the Chickasaw Nation's Communications and Public Affairs office as our guest speaker. She answered many of our questions and we were delighted to once again have that connection to Oklahoma. Thank you Miranda!

Our gathering was filled with great food and fellowship and came with some news to report. Our council website will soon be back up and running, thanks to our webmaster Don Cole! Feel free to check it out when updated: www.pnccc.us.

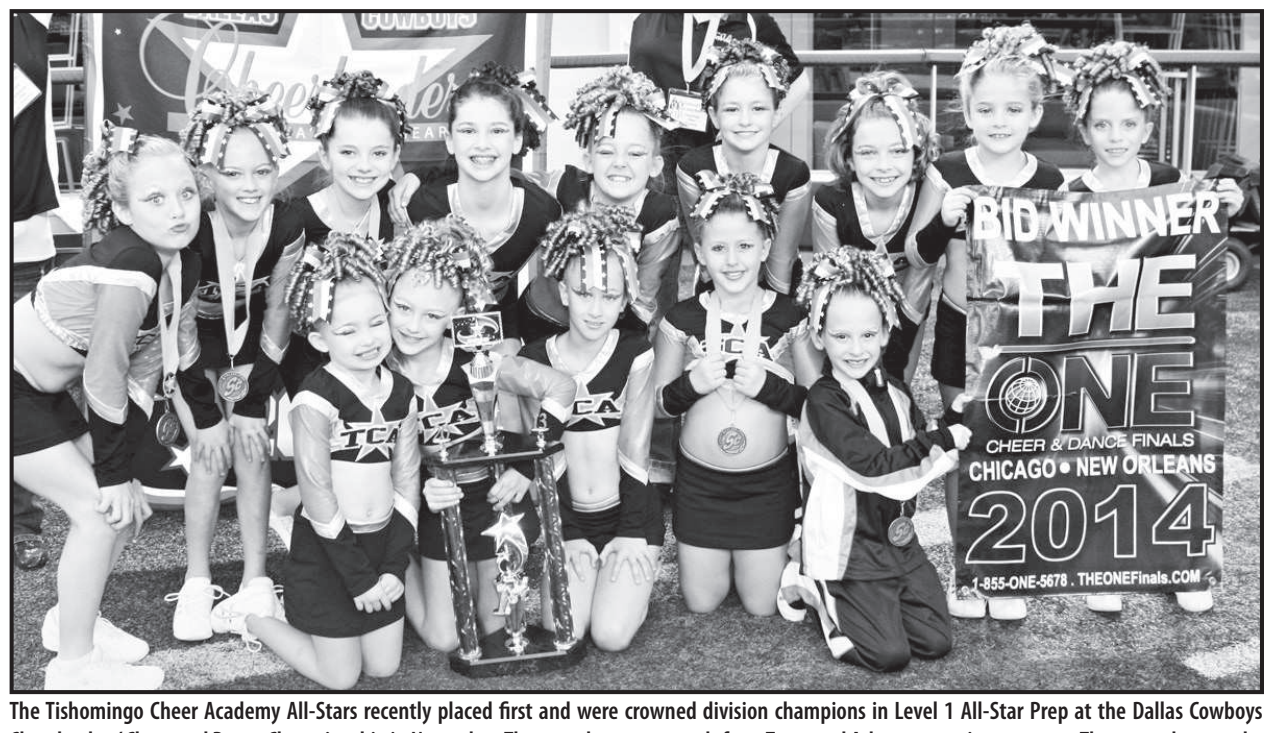
Stay tuned for news on our upcoming family-project contest which will provide an opportunity to teach our young citizens about our cultural heritage. Instructions and details will be posted soon. (Donations solely given from our community council members will serve as cash prizes.)

Additionally, in a hope to inspire and help us all to learn our native Chickasaw language, we'd like to challenge our local citizens to learn just a single Chickasaw word – and then bring that knowledge to a council gathering to share with the group. We might amaze ourselves with how many words we can learn!

The time and location of our winter meeting has yet to be formalized. For more information, contact Rena Smith or keep updated via our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/pnwccc/

Lastly, we wish all our Chickasaw brothers and sisters a safe, happy and fun holiday season - Cheers!

Tishomingo All-Stars champs at Dallas



The Tishomingo Cheer Academy All-Stars recently placed first and were crowned division champions in Level 1 All-Star Prep at the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders' Cheer and Dance Championship in November. The team beat out squads from Texas and Arkansas to reign supreme. The team also was the big winner of a finale competition in Hollywood and to "The One, Cheer and Dance Finals" in New Orleans. Fundraisers are being planned to help defray travel expenses and will be announced at a later date. Team members are,, bottom row from left, Ambria Caraway (Chickasaw), Avery Davenport, Hannah Campbell, Kayelynn Brown, and Cali Northcutt (Chickasaw). Top row from left, Bethany Coleman (Choctaw), Morgan Thompson, Erin Huston, Elisabeth Reynolds (Chickasaw), Trista Coker (Choctaw), Braidey Treas, Lori Ross, Mika Williams and Katelyn LaFevers (Chickasaw). Coaches are Ashley Davenport, Elizabeth Dean and Samantha Campbell.

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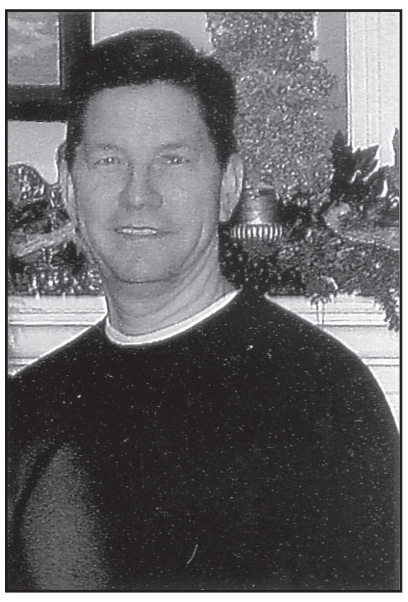
William Dooley first at target shooting match



William Ray Dooley

A Chickasaw citizen was crowned a national champion recently for his target shooting prowess.

William Ray Dooley finished first in the 200-300-600-yard Any Rifle, Any Sight National Championships. The match was at Camp Perry in Port Clinton, Ohio, and was sponsored by the National High-Power Rifle Association.

Mr. Dooley isn't new to shooting. He has competed in rifle matches since he was 12. At 17, he won the High Junior National Championship match, also at Camp Perry.

Three weeks later, he competed in and won the Arkansas State match in Little Rock. Then, in 1991, he competed and won the Missouri State Championship match hosted in the community of Marshall.

In 2012, he competed in the Oklahoma State 200-300-600-yard match and also won first place.

Three generations of Dooley men competed together in the Oklahoma Regional Match, hosted by Oklahoma City. The Dooleys – father Bill, his son, Will, and grandson, Josh – all competed in the 2011 match.

The Dooley family is descended from Winnie L. Blocker, their grandmother, who was an original enrollee with the tribe.

"We are proud of our Chickasaw heritage and take pride in representing Chickasaws wherever we go," Bill Dooley said.

Tyler Walker takes buck at Kullihoma

Tyler Walker, a 13-year-old Byng (OK) Junior High School student, shows the 10-point whitetail deer buck he harvested during the Chickasaw Nation's Kullihoma Youth Hunt in October. Tyler used a high-powered rifle to take down the 140-pound buck. He is the youngest son of Bailey Walker.

Clinton Wallace harvests 14-point buck

An 11-year-old proud Chickasaw citizen harvested a 14-point whitetail deer buck in Cooke County, Texas, on Nov. 2. Clinton Wallace, son of Jeremy and Stefanie Wallace of Lindsay, Texas, is shown with the buck taken on the Bar 4 Ranch. The youngster worked to make a food plot to attract his quarry and gave thanks for the life of the animal which provided meat for his family. In addition to hunting, he enjoys fishing, camping, and the great outdoors.

Gary Starns elected to commissioner post

Gary Starns

Chickasaw citizen and Pontotoc County (OK) Commissioner Gary Starns was recently elected vice president of the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma (ACCO).

Mr. Starns represents District 1. Elected officers will serve two-year terms beginning in January. Ada, Okla., is the county seat of Pontotoc County.

Roy Alford, of Latimer County, was elected president and Scott Hilton, of Osage County, was elected secretary/treasurer.

"These commissioners were elected by their peers to represent their fellow commissioners and ACCO members and I believe they will do an outstanding job," said Gayle Ward, ACCO executive director. "I am confident under the leadership of these individuals, county government will continue to actively contribute to the betterment of Oklahoma."

Walk of Life in Tuscumbia

2013 Walk of Life participants

TUSCUMBIA, Ala. - The 2013 Walk of Life was in September at Tuscumbia Landing to commemorate the forced removal of Native Americans from the area to Indian Territory. It was the 11th walk conducted and many Chickasaws were involved.

Tuscumbia is located in Colbert County and is the Chickasaw ancestral homeland. Chickasaws were numerous and were led by elder Rose Jefferson.

Two descendants of the Chickasaw Colbert family, John and Shelia Baker, were on hand. Mr. Baker carried a new born on the walk in a "cradleboard."

Mrs. Jefferson led the walkers into Spring Park Arena. Musicians Jeff Carpenter, Chickasaw, and Brad Clonch, Mississippi Choctaw, entertained participants. They form the core of the band Injunuity, which has received national and international attention.

Chickasaws and other Native Americans sang "Amazing Grace" in the Choctaw language and everyone in the park joined in the song in English.

Participants said the commemoration is both powerful and inspirational and Native Americans will be welcomed with the famous Tuscumbia hospitality for years to come.

Complete the Customer Service Survey and win!

Chickasaw citizens who complete a tribal customer service survey can win $100.

Chickasaws can access the Customer Service Survey through the tribal website at www.chickasaw.net. The survey seeks input from citizens regarding tribal programs, services and customer service.

After completing the survey, enter the giveaway. The $100 will be given away each quarter. Winners will be announced in *the Chickasaw Times.*

Tribal employees do "Halloween Hustle"

Chickasaw Travel Stop and Thackerville Gaming Center recently sponsored, and employees participated in, a fundraiser for the community. The event was called the Halloween Hustle. It was a 5K fun run and a 10K race with all proceeds going to benefit the North Texas Medical Center. Travel Stop and gaming employees participated as a team called "The Jogging Dead." The group won the event for business with the most entries. A total of 65 people participated. Employees or family members who placed and received medals included Koti Wood, 5, first place; Shawna Dewey, 16, first place; Perla Cisterna, 27, second place; Nick Gunnells, 27, third place; Ossie Davis, 42, second place; Randy Fullhard, 48, first place; Steve Wunderlich, 57, third place, and Alan Chapman, 62, second place.

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Lynn Engles met challenges head on with her mother's message of self-sufficiency

Chilocco grad used experience as career springboard

Lynn Engles

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Abject poverty, the death of her father when she was a youngster and Indian boarding schools don't usually dovetail into a success story.

Lynn Engles, a Chickasaw woman and World War II veteran, said all the events in her life – pleasant and unpleasant – saw her through to a career as the highest-ranking woman in the U.S. Veterans Affairs office in Los Angeles in the 1970s.

At 89, she's still going strong, attending veterans' events, visiting social groups and taking excursions, serving on committees and working to improve the lives of others.

She admits to slowing down some the last two years, but remains active in many organizations regarding veterans and retired federal government employees.

As a child with a Sulphur, Oklahoma family mired deep in the depths of the Great Depression, she lost her father and subsequently "we lost everything we ever had."

"My mother and father had eight children, and with my mother now a widow and no means to feed us, we all were sent to Indian boarding schools," Ms. Engles said.

She ended up at Carter Seminary in Ardmore. She would later attend four years of high school at Chilocco Indian Agricultural School, in far north central Oklahoma. She attended college at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan. When Ms. Engles attended Haskell, it was a junior college. It did not transform itself into a four-year accredited university until the 1990s.

"I loved it," Ms. Engles said of the boarding schools she attended. "Back in those days, they basically taught women home economics and they taught the men a trade."

Visits with her mother – who lived to be 90 – were painfully infrequent. Many a holiday came and went while Ms. Engles was in boarding school.

"Mother just didn't have the money to get us all home, so many holidays were spent at the schools," Ms. Engles said. "But there was always something that needed to be done, finished or started, so the time passed pretty quickly."

Ms. Engles stepped forward and enlisted soon after World War II began. It was 1944 and the decision would ultimately reward her for a lifetime. Ms. Engles joined the ranks of the U.S. Navy's Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES).

The year 1942 marked the inception of the WAVES. Ms. Engles spent approximately three years in the organization before ending her military career in 1946.

"The WAVES basically took over the (stateside) jobs of the sailors so the sailors could go overseas to fight the war," Ms. Engles said.

While some WAVES did see overseas duty in non-combat capacities toward the end of the war, Ms. Engles remained in the states during her time with the WAVES.

Approximately 27,000 women belonged to the WAVES during the course of the war. However, unlike the U.S. Army, the WAVES were not an "official" part of the U.S. Navy. Indeed, women were not allowed to join the Navy until 1948.

But it didn't matter to Ms. Engles because she was at the cusp of embarking upon a 34-year career with the U.S. Veterans Administration. She began her career as a G-3, government-speak for pay grade and peeking-order significance. When she retired in December 1980, she was a G-13, the highest pay grade ever held by a woman up to that time. She helped veterans acquire home loans so they could live out the quintessential American Dream.

"I supervised about 44 people," she said. "I moved up the ladder pretty quickly, I'd say. I worked 34 years and I've been retired 32 years. Retirement is hard work!"

She credits her success with the education and skills acquired attending Indian boarding schools.

Ms. Engles knows the boarding school experience for many Native Americans was less than rewarding. However, for her the schools provided confidence, skills and a deep desire to pursue a career that took her to the very top of her profession.

"Mother always told all the children that in order to succeed you had to be self-sufficient and work toward personal and professional goals," Ms. Engles said.

She spent almost her entire career with the VA in California, retiring in Phoenix to be close to one surviving sibling and a daughter.

Retirement is such a relative term, particularly when speaking with Ms. Engles.

She has served on several panels begun by governors, mayors, and others of importance concerning veterans' affairs and housing. She has served as an officer in several capacities for the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees. She belongs to a Chickasaw-member group in Arizona and helps veterans and Native Americans understand federal benefits to which they may be entitled. She has even has traveled to Oklahoma to drink in the Chickasaw Cultural Center and lend her expertise to veterans.

She visits returning women veterans to this day and welcomes them back home.

"If I see someone in uniform I'll welcome them and speak to them," Ms. Engles said. "When you're 89 and visiting with soldiers today, they will act like World War II is ancient history. I used to tease them by saying I served in Vietnam, but they didn't believe that either," Ms. Engles said with a laugh.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Chickasaw athlete competing for spot on U.S. Olympic Judo Team

MOORE, Okla. – The desire to be a U.S. Olympic athlete burns hot in the heart of a Chickasaw woman.

When the Olympic torch ignites the cauldron at the 2016 summer games in Rio de Janerio, Brazil, it will be the full embodiment of a spark planted in the mind of seven-year-old Kayla Chappell. The spark has been simmering 14 years now.

The work to turn it into a roaring flame is just beginning.

On Thursday evening, Ms. Chappell will pull up stakes, say goodbye to loved ones and friends, take a last look at the city that has been home for 21 years and head northwest.

Waiting for her will be the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, and that spark – to be one of 14 members on the U.S. Olympic Judo team with an opportunity to compete for gold.

Training, learning, living and traveling to tournaments worldwide is a full-time job itself.

But Ms. Chappell plans to attend the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, find a job, and share an apartment with another judo competitor while pushing herself to win enough tournaments to be among the top 14 in the world, which equates to an Olympic Summer Games berth.

Qualifying tournaments begin in June.

Over you go!

Kayla Chappell, a Chickasaw, is shown during a recent judo practice session in Moore, Okla. Miss Chappell has moved to Colorado Springs and is training at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in hopes of making of 2016 Summer Olympics U.S. Judo Team. (Photo courtesy of The Norman Transcript)

"Basically, I have two years to win enough tournaments and earn enough points to be ranked in the top 14," Ms. Chappell said.

To make life even more challenging for the Chickasaw woman is the fact all of the qualifying tournaments are overseas, except one.

"I'll be doing a lot of international traveling," she said.

When she and her parents, Curt and Kim Chappell, put pencil to paper to figure out the cost of all this, the figure was over $40,000 per year. No one will be hanging a price tag on Ms. Chappell's quest for greatness, but nobody is arguing frequent flyer miles will not be welcome, either.

Until the decision to move to Colorado, Ms. Chappell was a pre-med student at Oklahoma City University. She credits the Chickasaw Nation with funding every penny of her higher education at Oklahoma City Community College and at OCU.

"The Nation has been great to me and I appreciate it very much," she said.

Her goal, aside from winning a gold medal as a U.S. Olympian, is to work as a physician's assistant or physical therapist specializing in sports-related injuries.

She is a Chickasaw citizen, as is her father, who owns and operates a construction company in the Oklahoma City metro area.

The petite 21-year-old will be twisting arms and flipping foes at an Irving, Texas competition in November. She will be competing in the 57-kilo division (about 125 pounds). She was ranked No. 1 in the nation two years ago in the 52-kilo weight class (about 114 pounds) but an injury sidelined her for more than a year.

"If you don't compete for a year, all your points go away," she said.

She does not mind starting anew. She has challenged herself and established goals. Each competition is a step toward attaining them.

Aside from judo competition, Ms. Chappell's personal Facebook page shows she is a typical 21-year-old who enjoys friends, family and fun. But her Facebook page also has a serious edge to it when it comes to competition.

"The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand," her own quote proclaims.

"I love competition," Ms. Chappell said. "It's just in my blood. It is a thrill to compete and to succeed at goals you've set for yourself."

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Chickasaw Cultural Center Hosts Multi-Tribal Day

Tribes from across Oklahoma visited the Chickasaw Cultural Center Nov. 2 to celebrate at the first-ever Multi-Tribal Day. Demonstrators from different tribes joined together for a day of activities including stomp dances, archery contests, stickball games and storytelling.

Economic development, job creation, other issues discussed Nov. 12 at the White House

Gov. Anoatubby, fellow tribal leaders, meet with President Obama

GOV. BILL ANOATUBBY

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Gov. Bill Anoatubby was among 12 Native American leaders who conferred with President Barack Obama Nov. 12 at the White House prior to Wednesday's White House Tribal Nations Conference.

"Historically, effective communication between tribal leaders and the federal government is vital to a productive government-to-government relationship," Gov. Anoatubby said following the meeting.

"President Obama's administration has worked closely with tribal leaders to implement a number of policies which have helped enhance the quality of life of Native Americans. He has developed a tribal consultation policy enabling leaders of American Indian tribes to have meaningful input into the development of policies which have enhanced housing, health care, education, economic development and law enforcement services in Indian Country.

"This meeting to discuss vital policy issues affecting Native Americans directly with President Obama is further evidence the president is committed to continuing to develop that relationship," Gov. Anoatubby said.

President Obama, administration officials and tribal leaders discussed job creation, economic development in tribal communities and other issues of importance to Native Americans.

Administration officials at the meeting included Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell, Senior Advisor to the President Valerie Jarrett, White House Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Munoz, Director of the National Economic Council Gene Sperling and Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew.

The White House blog post about the meeting can be found at the following address.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/11/12/president-obama-meets-tribal-leaders-ahead-white-house-tribal-nations-conference-0

Other tribal leaders in attendance were:

· Melanie Benjamin, chief executive, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe of Minnesota

· Leonard Forsman, chairman, Suquamish Tribe of Washington

· Joe Garcia, governor, Ohkay Owingeh of New Mexico

· Ray Halibritter, nation representative and CEO, Oneida Indian Nations of New York

· Carole Lankford, vice chairwoman, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana

· Rex Lee Jim, vice president, Navajo Nation of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah

· Chris McNeil, CEO, Sealaska of Alaska

· Rosemary Morillo, chairwoman, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians of California

· Terri Parton, president, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes of Oklahoma

· Terry Rambler, chairman, San Carlos Apache Tribe of Arizona

· Robert Shepherd, chairman, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of South Dakota

Named 'Bull Breeder of the Year' for 2013

Chickasaw Nation couple raising top bucking bull stock for PBR events

Donna and Dwight Frick display the Ronnie Roach trophy they were awarded for winning the American Bucking Bull, Inc., Breeder of the Year 2013. The trophy was presented Nov.9 at a surprise reception of close family and friends.

MARLOW, Okla. - Donna and Dwight Frick aren't your typical cattle ranchers. They live a life many only dream of. Ranching for more than 40 years in Marlow, they raise some of the best professional bucking bull stock in the nation.

Mrs. Frick is Chickasaw.

The couple have been recognized for their skilled efforts by American Bucking Bull Inc. (ABBI) as "Bull Breeder of the Year" for 2013. The Fricks were honored during the Professional Bull Riders Built Ford Tough World Finals in Las Vegas.

"This is the biggest award a bull breeder can win," Mr. Frick said. "There is nothing higher a breeder can win. This is really special."

The bull that made this honor possible for the Fricks is named "The Rocker." He is currently owned and trained by 18-year-old Wyatt Crowder of Fort Lupton, Colo. The Rocker is a four-year-old bull sold to Mr. Crowder as a yearling. The Rocker won the coveted American Bucking Bull Inc. Classic Title in October.

The Rocker was considered an underdog at the finals. He competed against 17 other elite bucking bulls from across the nation. The Rocker's win is credited to the Fricks' superior breeding program and rigorous training provided by Crowder.

The Rocker is not the only prize-winning bull the Fricks have bred over the years. As longtime members of the ABBI, the couple is among the largest breeders of professional bulls with many award-winning animals.

"We sell our bulls all over the U.S. It's hard to keep track of all our bulls," Mr. Frick said. "But we have kept track of some. Great bulls that come to mind include 'Jim Jam,' 'Super Freak' and 'Dodge Durango.' Jim Jam held a record for high scores for many years and Super Freak is an ABBI American Heritage winner."

According to ABBI, no cowboy has stayed atop Dodge Durango for a full eight-second ride in 75 consecutive shoot pulls as a bounty bull. Bounty bulls are considered so competitive and difficult to ride, sponsors will place additional prize money for the cowboys that complete a ride on them.

"Dodge Durango is a fantastic bull," Mr. Frick said. "He is one of the largest bounty bulls of all time. When he was retired, I think he had $78,000 worth of bounty purses on him."

Operations on the ranch

This husband-and-wife team ranch full time. Their ranching careers began together 40 years ago when they married. Mr. Frick, a third-generation farmer, purchased his first cows at the age of 14 and began competing in rodeos at 15. Mrs. Frick did not begin her farming career until 18 when she first met Dwight.

Owners of F-F Rodeo Stock, Donna and Dwight Frick have produced the Duncan Noon Lions Rodeo for more than 35 years. The Duncan Noon Lions presented the couple with a gold and silver belt buckle for years of hard work and community service.

"I didn't know anything but city life," Mrs. Frick said. "But I always knew I liked the country life. I love animals and when I started going with Dwight we often would find ourselves in pastures looking at cattle and other animals. He has taught me a lot about animals."

With her innate love of animals and her husband's knowledge, the couple has grown their ranch to include 2,500 acres of owned and leased property. In addition to bucking bulls, they grow wheat and graze commercial cattle.

For their livestock, they do whatever it takes to make them healthy and successful. It is truly a labor of love between the two.

"Let me put it to you this way," Mr. Frick said. "When the snow flies and I run into a baby calf that is too cold to get up and nurse his momma, I call Donna on the phone and she gets everything ready to take care of that calf until it's ready to go back to its momma."

This is more difficult than it sounds.

"I might have worked with him every three hours," Mrs. Frick said. "I have to lift him up and down, try to get his legs circulating. I have to feed him a little and, if need be, I will put him in the office at the house and tube him (run a tube down its throat) if he won't eat. Not many women can do that."

These problem animals are often hard to part with because of the time spent together.

"When she goes through all this work to keep these animals alive, I know I am in trouble," Mr. Frick said. "She names them. Once that happens, it's not going to leave here."

As with any business, keeping the books can be the hardest part of the operation. Each cow is branded, numbered and tagged. For the bucking bull stock, a DNA sample is also collected and sent to the ABBI. To keep their operation manageable, cattle are separated into herds based on bull fighting and commercial stock.

"I work cattle right along with Dwight," Mrs. Frick said. "Most of the time I am keeping the books on the cattle registration and blood cards correct. I get needles ready for Dwight. I feed when I have to and help where needed. I am right alongside him when we produce rodeos."

The Fricks have been producing Oklahoma rodeos more than 35 years. They are the owners of F-F Rodeo Stock, Inc. Much of their more than 150 bucking bull stock is used when producing rodeo events. They also have on hand at their ranch more 25 of large bucking horses.

"We love producing rodeos," Mrs. Frick said. "It is exciting. It's hard work and long hours, but it's worth it. We work with a lot of good people. One of our favorites is the Lions Club Rodeo in Duncan. It helps with eye glasses for kids. We have been producing it for a long time."

Their rodeo productions have included events at the Lion's Club Rodeo held in Stephens County, The Rush Springs Watermelon Festival Rodeo, events at the Lindsay Round-Up Club and the Walters Rodeo in Walter, Okla.

"The biggest rodeo we do is Walters Rodeo," Mr. Frick said. "We have done it for 40 years. It's probably the biggest open rodeo in the state of Oklahoma."

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

October 2013 Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement

The following Chickasaw students were selected for outstanding achievement for the month of October 2013.

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Hunter Fox

Hunter Fox

Hunter Fox, 8, son of Mylinda and Daniel Fox, of Ada, Okla., is an October 2013 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Academic Achievement Award.

Hunter is a second grader at Latta Elementary School and was nominated by his teacher, Tommy Robinson

"Hunter has worked very hard this month and has shown great progress in all academic areas. His attitude about learning and his behavior has been so good," Mrs. Robinson said. "I am very proud of Hunter and his accomplishments since school has started. I expect to see even greater accomplishments through the school year."

Hunter's family describes him as outgoing, friendly, kind-spirited, energetic and curious.

Erica Hanna

Hunter loves to help take care of his little brother Joshua, playing with Bey Blades, video and computer games, and exploring. He also enjoys playing Transformers and Iron Man.

"My life is good," Hunter said. "Make sure they know I'm happy."

Erica Hanna

Erica Hanna, 15, daughter of David and Linda Hanna, of Broken Arrow, Okla., is an October 2013 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Academic Achievement Award.

Erica is in the tenth grade at Intermediate High School in Broken Arrow and was nominated by her government teacher, Nora Jamison.

"Erica exhibits academic excellence and compassion for others," Ms. Jamison said. "Her work ethic is of the highest degree, and she sets the standard for peers to follow."

Jaylee Willis

She is a straight-A student and recently became a member of the National Junior Honor Society.

Erica enjoys learning about her heritage and her favorite school subject is history. Her hobbies include music, art and piano.

"I like to write music," Erica said. "My cats are my audience."

After graduation, she plans to pursue a college degree in music.

Outstanding Achievement in Athletics

Jaylee Willis

Jaylee Willis, 10, daughter of Jeff and Rhonda Willis of Ada, Okla., is an October 2013 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement in Athletics Award.

Jaylee is a fourth grader at Homer Elementary School and was nominated by her softball coach, Pete Benes.

"Jaylee is a true joy to coach and always has such a positive attitude whether we win or lose. She has been a team captain and is very well respected by all her teammates and coaches," Mr. Benes said. "She gives me 100 percent on the field and at practice—that is all a coach can ask for."

Mr. Benes continued, "She is one of my more versatile players and can play multiple positions at a very high level."

Jaylee plays both catcher and second base for the Lucky Ladies softball team, and point guard and small forward for the Ada Hotshots basketball team.

She also enjoys art and dance, and sings in the children's choir at Trinity Baptist Church.

"I love to draw and have fun at school with my friends," Jaylee said.

Looking forward, Jaylee plans to continue being the best student and athlete she can.

CONTRIBUTED BY Miranda Elliott, Public Affairs.

Rich archeology of the Chickasaw Nation

Tribe's heritage resource workers dedicated to preserving artifacts

Cynthia Highfield , Ambrie Johnson and Joey Seeley, environmental specialists for the Chickasaw Nation, carefully sift through a soil sample collected from a shovel test pit.

For thousands of years people have called what is now Oklahoma home. Its natural history has shaped their way of life. Its lands and animals have undergone many changes, and underneath its soils are priceless treasures waiting to be unearthed for study.

Among those charged in the safekeeping of these yet unearthed artifacts are a few dedicated and highly trained Chickasaw Nation technicians.

Four workers within the Chickasaw Nation Environmental Services Department are licensed by the federal government as heritage resource technicians. Heritage resource technicians oversee archeology surveys in the field, record potential archeological sites and safely catalog and store finds.

Archeological surveys are important for many reasons. They are used to learn about the natural and diverse cultural history of the area. Original Native Americans who lived in what is now Oklahoma did not have a written history, and many Native Americans relocated from the east did not read or write. Much of what historians know of these people and how they lived has literally been dug up from the earth.

According to tribal environmental specialist Brandon Prince, more than 20 archeological surveys are conducted each year by the Chickasaw Nation within its boundaries. These surveys preserve the cultural heritage and natural history of its lands.

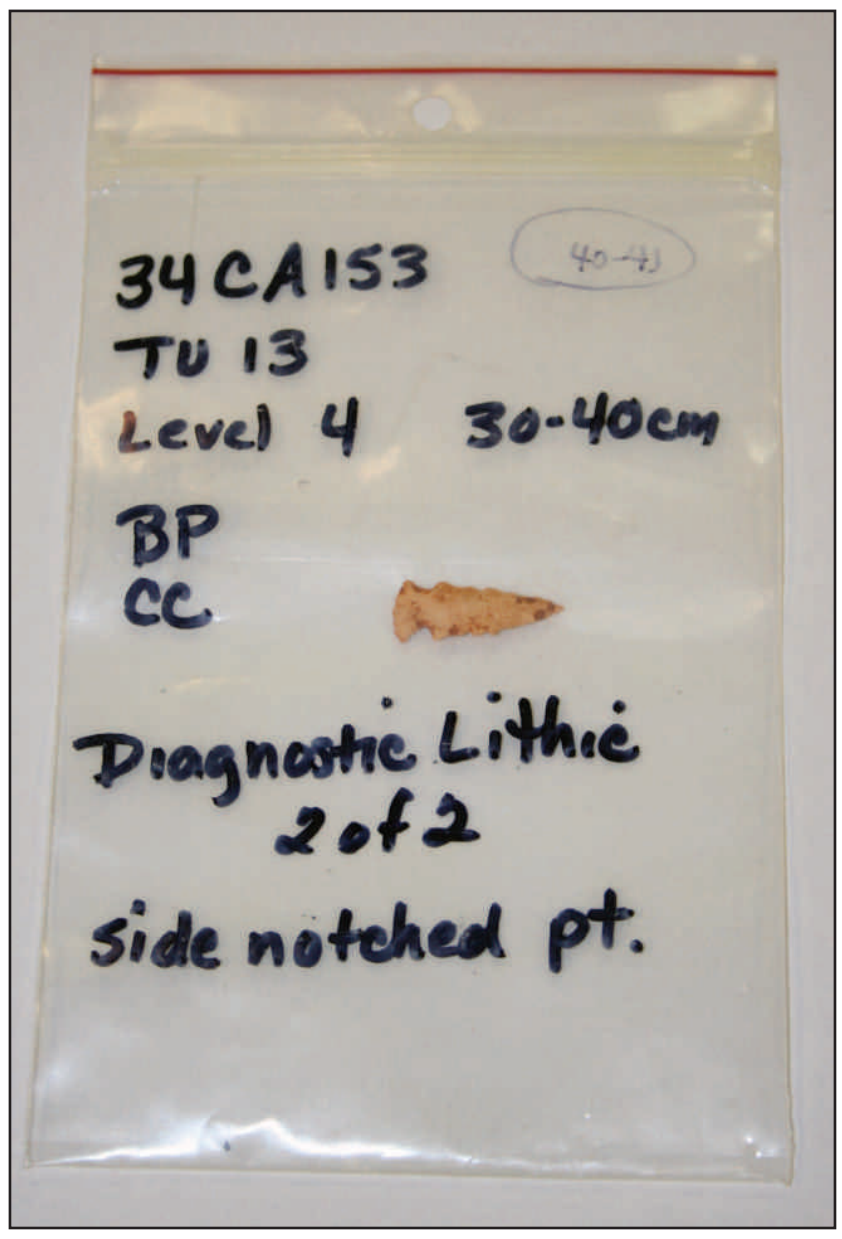
"We conduct archeological surveys and environmental impact studies whenever we have ground disturbances caused by tribal construction," Mr. Prince said. "Before heavy equipment is brought into a work site, we test to make sure impact will be minimal and we aren't disturbing potential archeological sites."

Chickasaw construction projects include building new homes, running underground utility lines, road projects and improvements to existing structures.

"By far the most archeological surveys we do each year is for new houses," Mr. Prince said. "Septic tanks and storm shelters also have surveys done, even on previously developed properties. They are the easiest and quickest to get done because of the smaller impact area."

The processes and tools involved in the surveys are time consuming and costly. But for this investment, much can be saved by the tribe and its partners.

"Surveys are done before the first phase of construction, during the planning period, environmental specialist Ambrie Johnson said. "This makes sure our projects can be completed timely. Bigger projects may involve many contractors and organizations. Time lines are involved. If we have to stop construction for archeological purposes, that is expensive to everyone involved."



Bird point arrowhead

Pictured is one of many bird point arrowheads found while on digs. Artifacts found in the field are placed in plastic bags for protection. These are labeled with important information and stored for future study.

About archeological surveys conducted by the tribe

The archeological surveys conducted by tribal heritage resource technicians follow a precise set of guidelines and procedures. Conducted in the first phase of new construction, letters are sent to various state and federal organizations to inform them of potential finds.

These include the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Archeological Survey sponsored by the University of Oklahoma, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, among others.

The Chickasaw Nation receives similar letters from groups conducting archeological surveys, both from within the tribal homelands and in Oklahoma.

The archeological survey most often used is known as the "shovel test pit method." The shovel test pit method is efficient for sites with unknown archeological importance. When a site has been selected, a sampling of the area is conducted. Test pits are dug in a grid like pattern of distances of up to 30 meters, but these pits can be spaced shorter depending on individual circumstances.

"Sometimes we test long stretches of ground and space our test pits up to 30 meters between each," Mr. Prince said. "Other times we may be at smaller sites for a storm shelter. Those receive test holes at the corners and center of where the digging with take place."

Once a test pit is dug, its location is marked by a Global Positioning System. Photographs of the area are taken for future reference. Sample soil is filtered by hand using a large sifter. If artifacts are found within the material, they are collected and logged to the individual pit. The soil is then replaced with minimal disruption to the area and the technicians move on to the next grid position to repeat the process.

When field work is completed, reports are written about the findings of the site. These are sent to a contracted archeologist. The independent archeologist makes recommendations whether construction plans should proceed or further study of the area should be taken based on the field reports.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

Once an archeological survey is complete, construction can begin

Since 2004, many artifacts have been discovered, catalogued, studied and preserved for future generations. These have included bird point arrow heads, ancient fire pits, 19th century buttons, stone scrapers and numerous fossils.

"Some of our best finds came from near the Ardmore airport a few years ago," Mr. Prince said. "It was a month-long dig. Artifacts were found that dated to 1850 to mid 1860s. It was exciting to be a part of."

Recently, technicians conducted an archeological survey that uncovered a large, rare prehistoric mollusk fossil. It was an important find related to Oklahoma's natural history. It was taken to the University of Oklahoma for dating and further study.

"The fossil I found was huge," environmental technician Joey Seeley said. "I was walking down a gully and looked up and there it was, stuck in the wall of the creek bed. It was amazing. The recent rains partially exposed it."

Oklahoma mollusk

This large fossilized mollusk was recently found at an archeological survey. Important to the natural history of Oklahoma, it was taken to It was taken to the University of Oklahoma's Natural History Museum for dating and further study.

Chickasaw families enjoy great outdoors during Hayaka Unta

Ready to climb

Jake Wells, 9, of Goldsby, Okla., looks to his family for encouragement before tackling the ropes course climbing wall at Fall Hayaka Unta camp.

Chickasaw youth and their families recently spent a brisk but beautiful fall weekend reconnecting at Camp Simpson near Bromide, Okla.

Nearly 40 campers gathered October 18-20 for two nights and two days of outdoor family fun at fall Hayaka Unta camp.

The primitive-style camping adventure allowed Chickasaw youth and their families an opportunity to connect and bond without the everyday distractions of life.

"Families today have so much going on from day-to-day," director of youth activities Tonya Bierce said. "Between work, school, activities and everything else, there is limited time to connect without distractions. Hayaka Unta gives Chickasaw families a safe, wholesome environment to bond and reconnect, while celebrating their Chickasaw heritage."

Campers participated in a number of activities including canoeing, archery, rifle shooting, a ropes course and a guys-versus-girls stickball game.

"For the first time at Hayaka Unta, the guys won the stickball game," youth activities assistant Courtney Starns said. "The girls joked that there was a recruitment plan in place for this camp."

While the days were filled with exciting activities and friendly competition, the evenings were spent in relaxed contentment as a few dads in attendance strummed their guitars around the campfire.

Before packing off and heading home on Sunday, the families took part in a spirited scavenger hunt.

Camping enthusiasts, the Wells family of Goldsby, Okla., expressed their excitement about getting the opportunity to take part in Hayaka Unta for the first time.

"We started fall break camping at the Blue River, and were so happy to continue our family trip at Camp Simpson," Ms. Wells said. "This is a great experience. It has been beautiful—perfect weather for camping."

For more information about Hayaka Unta Camp and other youth camps, call the division of youth services at (580) 272-5716 or visit www.chickasaw.net/youthcamps.

CONTRIBUTED BY Miranda Elliott, Public Affairs.

Music duo Injunuity, tribal executive help seek new ways to empower minorities

Chickasaws offer talent, expertise at OKC Creative Forum

OKLAHOMA CITY – There is no shortage of creative and dynamic individuals in The Chickasaw Nation.

Two of the most highly touted creative types from the Chickasaw Nation performed Nov. 19 at the Creativity Forum hosted at Oklahoma City's Civic Center Music Hall. In addition, Lona Barrick, Chickasaw Nation Arts and Humanities executive officer, was a key participant in one of the forum sessions.

Injunuity, an internationally acclaimed Native American music duo comprised of Chickasaw Jeff Carpenter and Mississippi Choctaw flutist Brad Clonch, took center stage at 11:40 a.m. to perform their composition "Chickasha Alhiha'."

Messrs. Carpenter and Clonch recently have been featured on "Native America Calling," a nationally telecast radio program; were headliners at Apache Moon, a Native American-themed concert in Switzerland; and have signed a record contract with an Arizona company that specializes in Native music, and released their fourth compact disc.

Ms. Barrick joined Dennis Cheek, executive director, National Creativity Network; Jamai Blivin, CEO, Innovate + Educate, and Eric Cooper, president, National Urban Alliance, in discussing "Tapping the Creative Potential of the New Majority."

It was a conversation about birth through the first job and beyond for African American, Latino and Native American children and youth.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2013 or 2014 America's racial and ethnic minorities will make up more than one-half of the under-5 age group and by 2018, this will be true for all children under 18. Eleven percent of America's current 3,143 counties are majority-minority. Similar trends are observed in Canada and elsewhere.

According to Creative Forum's website, the team discussed how this tremendous human potential may be tapped in ways that increase individual, family, community and societal flourishing, in addition to what barriers need to be overcome, what is working, and how to accelerate change.

The day-long forum featured entrepreneurs, policymakers, educators, students, innovators, community leaders, and technology experts for a day of dynamic presentations and dialogue with internationally recognized experts in creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The forum was sponsored in part by The Chickasaw Nation.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Injunuity

Injunuity flutist Brad Clonch, left, and guitarist Jeff Carpenter were in high demand during November. The national and internationally renowned musicians performed at the Oklahoma City Civic Center for a two-day forum celebrating creativity and also headlined a concert at the Goddard Center in Ardmore, Okla., to close out a three-week exhibition by Chickasaw textile and fashion artist Margaret Roach Wheeler.

Chickasaw Nation recognized for innovative thinking, creative leadership

A taco sale, landscaping program, web-based purchase order system, employee attitudes and school supplies were all mentioned by a federal employee while discussing an honor received by the Chickasaw Nation

Jeff Barwick, Workforce Development Specialist with the U.S. Department of Labor, said the Chickasaw Nation is "very deserving" of the outstanding grantee award it received for programs operated under Public Law 102-477.

The Chickasaw Nation was singled out among 62 tribes who operate programs under the voluntary initiative, which offers tribes considerable flexibility in designing programs and services to meet the needs of its citizens.

"The award starts from the top down," Mr. Barwick said, adding that Governor Anoatubby and his leadership team lead by example. "The Chickasaw Nation has a very strong coalition working together. I can speak to anyone in the chain and they are just as vested in their work and happy to be working for the Chickasaw Nation. They are concerned about what their job is and how that's going to affect what they are offering."

Mr. Barwick used a taco sale as an example that Chickasaw Nation executives are willing to go the extra mile.

"They had a taco sale to raise money," he said in a somewhat incredulous tone. He added that he was amazed "to know that people who put their whole life into college and worked very hard to get to a position of leadership will still take time and do that, and volunteer to set an example and raise money for the community."

He used the tribe's landscaping program as an example of innovation, noting that the agriculture business started as an economic development initiative had grown into something much more.

"Look at this landscaping business and how they ran with that," he said, adding that the program had grown into a learning opportunity for teenagers. He said that some of those who are part of the program told him they have been inspired to study agriculture.

He also pointed to the web-based purchase order system known as eRequester as an example of innovative thinking that could be used to benefit other tribes.

He noted that the electronic system for placing and tracking orders can help program directors become more efficient in accomplishing their goals.

"The Chickasaw Nation had to do a lot of work to put the system in place, but now I can share that information with other tribes," he said. "They not only showed teamwork in administration and leadership, but they have designed and implemented a system that I show other tribes. I take away examples from the Chickasaw Nation when I visit some of the other tribes I work with."

That cooperation between the tribes and the federal government that enables a more efficient and effective use of federal funds is a hallmark of the program.

"I work with tribes all over the country in different situations and at different levels. So they want to focus their funding in the area that's going to best help the tribe deal with the conditions they have at that location and their time in history, to fit their needs.

"When we first started out getting some of these federal agencies to work together and to work with tribes through this program together is a bit of a bumpy road," he said. "Bringing those federal departments on board and working with them over the years has much improved."

Gov. Anoatubby honored for promoting good relations with Israel

Governor Bill Anoatubby, left, accepts the 2013 Light, Leadership and Legacy Award from the Oklahoma Israel Exchange (OKIE) during gala festivities Nov. 14 in Oklahoma City. Presenting the award to Gov. Anoatubby is former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating.

OKLAHOMA CITY – An Oklahoma non-profit organization which has exported millions of dollars of Oklahoma goods to Israel since 1991 has bestowed its highest honor on Gov. Bill Anoatubby.

Gov. Anoatubby received the prestigious 2013 Light, Leadership and Legacy Award from the Oklahoma Israel Exchange (OKIE) Nov. 14 at Oklahoma City's historic Skirvin Hotel.

A partnership between the Chickasaw Nation, Gov. Anoatubby and OKIE began in March 1996. Gov. Anoatubby participated in a mission to Israel that year when OKIE was seeking recognition and non-profit status for business dealings with the state of Oklahoma.

"Bill Anoatubby and the Chickasaw (Nation) have faithfully promoted the ongoing relations that exists between our two States – pursuing mutual interests in agriculture, culture, commerce and education," according to OKIE's website.

OKIE praised the nearly two-decade long relationship it has enjoyed with The Chickasaw Nation. Gov. Anoatubby's visit, OKIE officials said, "ignited a friendship" that is long-lasting and enduring.

Gov. Anoatubby said it was "humbling, and an incredible honor, to be recognized by the Oklahoma Israel Exchange, an organization that strives to foster partnerships with our great state. Much like the Oklahoma Israel Exchange, the Chickasaw Nation strongly believes in the mutual benefits of building strong partnerships.

"We realized early on we had to care about others, not just about our own Nation," Gov. Anoatubby told the audience. "When we look to improve the circumstances for Chickasaw people, we are aware of how improving our circumstance improves those of others as well.

"We are all Oklahomans. We wish to see the communities in which we live and work continue to thrive. We have formed many partnerships which we value greatly. It is a blessing to partner with an organization which holds common goals and shares similar values. And I hope this partnership carries us well into the future," Gov. Anoatubby said.

The award honors "distinguished members of the Oklahoma community who demonstrated unwavering support for OKIE's many ongoing projects and programs."

OKIE was endorsed by then-Gov. David Walters in 1992 and became an official non-profit organization during the administration of former Gov. Frank Keating in 1997. OKIE's mission is to foster enhanced cooperation between the state of Israel and the state of Oklahoma in commerce, agriculture, culture and education. A total of 22 states enjoy trade relations with Israel.

In 2002, Oklahoma exported nearly $3.5 million worth of manufacturing goods to Israel. Israel is now Oklahoma's 54th largest trade partner. Total exports since 1991 have exceeded $106 million, according to OKIE's website.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Chickasaw elders gather to give thanks during Nov. 15 Thanksgiving luncheon

ADA, Okla. – More than 650 Chickasaw elders from across the state gathered at the Pontotoc County Agri-Plex Nov. 15 to celebrate the annual Elders Thanksgiving Bazaar and Luncheon.

Elders representing the 13 Chickasaw Nation Senior Centers enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal while browsing fundraising booths featuring jewelry, clothing and crafts. The event gave elders the opportunity to visit, give thanks and enjoy fellowship with one another.

Gov. Bill Anoatubby welcomed the guests and reminded everyone that, "We have a right to be thankful each and every day for the blessings we receive."

Each year, the Chickasaw Nation Division on Aging hosts the Elders Thanksgiving Bazaar and Luncheon as a way to give thanks to the people they serve and work with daily.

CONTRIBUTED BY Amber Carey, Public Affairs.

Cutline: Elders enjoy a Thanksgiving meal at the 2013 Elders Thanksgiving Bazaar and Luncheon.

Governor Bill Anoatubby speaks to Chickasaw elders at the 2013 Elders Thanksgiving Bazaar and Luncheon Nov. 15.

Chickasaw Nation Ada Senior Citizens Gift Shop

1005 Chamber Loop · Ada, OK ·

(580) 436-1007

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Beaded Items · Handmade Items
Native American Jewelry
Large and small Native American
Teepees and blankets

You should assess how you currently receive health care and if Indian Health Service is your primary care provider

Affordable Care Act will impact many Indian citizens

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) – known commonly as Obamacare – will impact all Americans, including Indian citizens. A full understanding of the law will help Native Americans make informed choices about the future, their health care and their responsibilities.

Computer glitches preventing Americans from signing up have dominated the news, but a full explanation of how it affects Native Americans has been absent.

Enrollment in ACA, though troubled, began Oct. 1 and will continue through March 2014. In most cases, failure to purchase insurance by Jan. 1, 2014, could result in penalties and fines. Jan. 1, 2014, is a critically important date for Native Americans, too.

Native Americans are exempt from purchasing insurance through ACA if they receive primary health care through the U.S. Indian Health Service (IHS). But Indians run the risk of falling through the cracks if they receive health care outside IHS.

The Chickasaw Nation Medical Center provides exemplary health care and services to all Native Americans. However, the medical center is unable to perform all services at its facility in Ada, Okla., such as coronary bypass surgery. If a Native citizen requires such a procedure, he or she may be sent to a non-IHS facility. The cost of the procedure could fall to the patient in some instances.

ACA can be used as an effective safety net for Native Americans in such cases should they decide to enroll for coverage through the ACA Health Insurance Marketplace.

Here are the pertinent facts all Native Americans should know:

· Citizens of federally-recognized tribes must obtain a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) as well as a tribal citizenship card prior to Jan. 1, 2014, to be exempt. People who are not citizens of a federally-recognized tribe must have a CDIB card in order to request a hardship waiver to be considered exempt from purchasing health insurance or face fines and penalties.

· If an Indian citizen is covered by employer-provided health care, or if he or she purchases insurance through an employer, enrollment in an ACA plan is unnecessary.

· If an Indian citizen is covered by Medicare or Medicaid, has health benefits through the Veterans Administration, or is covered through Soonercare, enrollment in ACA is unnecessary.

While Native Americans are virtually exempt from the law by virtue of IHS, enrolling in the Marketplace could provide extra financial security if treatment is administered outside of IHS facilities.

Purchasing insurance through the Marketplace exchange satisfies insurance requirements and could even lower monthly premiums through tax credits and subsidies based upon annual income.

Though Oklahoma opted out of providing greater Medicaid assistance and did not set up Marketplace exchanges, Oklahoma Native Americans may still purchase insurance. Such policies:

· Require insurance companies to cover individuals who have pre-existing health concerns.

· Hold insurance companies to account for rate increases.

· Prevent insurance companies from canceling policies in the event of illness.

· Cover children on family plans to age 26.

· Provide free preventive care.

· Eliminate lifetime and annual financial ceilings.

· Provide the right to appeal decisions customers consider unfavorable.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Affordable Care Act Timeline and Deadlines

· March 23, 2010: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) is approved by Congress and becomes law.

· Jan. 1, 2011: Medicare begins providing additional free preventive care services.

· June 29, 2012: The United States Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of ACA in a 5-4 decision.

· Sept. 6, 2013: The federal government grants Oklahoma a one-year extension to operate its own healthcare program. Oklahoma rejected federal government incentives to expand the Medicaid healthcare program for the poor and declined to set up its own health insurance exchange for consumers to shop for insurance. Oklahomans may research options using the federal government's marketplace exchanges at www.healthcare.gov. Oklahomans may also phone 1-800-318-2596 to enroll or inquiries.

· Oct. 1, 2013: Uninsured Americans can enroll in a health plan through state and federal health care exchanges.

· Jan. 1, 2014: Deadline for purchasing health insurance. The 2014 tax penalty for remaining uninsured is $95 per individual or 1 percent of annual income. Whichever is greater.

· Jan. 1, 2015: The tax penalty increases to $325 per individual or 2 percent of annual income. Whichever is greater.

· Jan. 1 2016: Tax penalty increases to $695 per individual or 2.5 percent of annual income. Whichever is greater.

ACA Timeline For Native Americans

Jan. 1, 2014: Native Americans must be citizens of a federally recognized tribe and possess a Certification of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) in order to be exempt for ACA rules, fines and penalties.

· Jan. 1, 2014: Native Americans not citizens of a federally recognized tribe must have a CDIB in order to apply for a hardship waiver to avoid fines and penalties.

· NOW: Chickasaw citizens wishing to explore options of enrolling in the ACA marketplace to augment Indian Health Services benefits may telephone 580-436-3980, extension 80202. Lea or Tammy will be available to answer questions and assist Chickasaw citizens.

· NOW: Native Americans have an opportunity to purchase benefits that will allow greater flexibility to health care in addition to IHS.

· NOW: Many Native Americans may qualify for tax credits and other benefits to reduce the cost of insurance purchased through ACA. The credits are based on annual income.

· Chickasaws may apply online for a CDIB and for tribal citizenship at www.chickasaw.net. Go to the Services tab to input information. Individuals may also phone (580) 436-7250 for assistance.

Chickasaw, other Indian vets receive benefits counseling at Chickasaw Nation Medical Center

Chickasaw citizen and WWII veteran Mr. John L. Sanders receives assistance from a VA representative at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center Veterans Benefit Enrollment on Nov. 4.

ADA, Okla. - More than 60 Oklahoma and Native American veterans visited the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center Nov. 4 to register for veteran benefits. The come-and-go event offered Indian veterans the opportunity to sign up for veteran benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"It is great to see Native American veterans coming together to share experiences, and sign up for the benefits offered," Chickasaw Nation Native American benefits coordinator Thedo (Ted) Underwood said. "We are grateful to be able to bring this service to our veterans."

To honor National Native American Heritage Month in November, President Barack Obama stated, "The Native Americans stand among America's most distinguished. They have profoundly strengthened the legacy we will leave our children. American Indians and Alaskan Natives bravely fought to protect the legacy as members of our Armed Forces."

Alma Carvel, a Chickasaw citizen and veteran, served in the military from 2001 to 2008. She attended the veterans benefit enrollment to update her veterans ID card, and see if there were any new benefits being offered.

"I am proud to be a Chickasaw citizen and veteran of our armed forces," she said. "This enrollment event helps in so many ways, and I am excited about utilizing my new benefits."

Chickasaw veteran DeLoyd Hicks traveled from his home in Achille, Okla., to seek information on new and existing benefits.

"Since this is an organization primarily for Native Americans, this is a great service for the Native American people," Mr. Hicks said.

For more information on Native American Veterans Benefits, visit the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website at www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-tribal.asp, or contact Mr. Underwood, Native American Benefits Coordinator for the Chickasaw Nation, at (580) 226-4821 or (888) 808-9508.

CONTRIBUTED BY Amber Carey, Public Affairs.

History of Native American military roles

For nearly 200 years, Native Americans have played vital roles in the United States military. From the Revolutionary War through the War Between the States (Civil War), American Indians served as auxiliary troops and scouts.

Nearly 12,000 Native Americans served in the military during World War I.

In World War II, over 44,000 Native Americans served between 1941 and 1945. At this time, the entire population of Native Americans in the United States was less than 350,000.

It was during WWII that many Native American military personnel worked as cryptologists, using their Native languages to encode messages. This prevented enemy code-breakers from deciphering them.

Currently, the estimated American Indian and Alaskan Native veteran population in the state of Oklahoma is over 14,000. This includes nearly 13,000 male veterans, and over 1,000 female veterans.

Hundreds receive flu shots at health clinics

The Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada, Okla. and Tishomingo Health Clinic in Tishomingo hosted yearly flu vaccination clinics for patients. Since flu season is upon us, now is a better time than ever to get the yearly flu vaccination. Getting the yearly flu shot is a person's best defense against the flu virus.

Men, women and children arrived, signed in, and took turns getting the flu shots at both patient clinic locations. This year, the flu shot will offer protection against H1N1 flu (swine flu) virus, along with two other influenza viruses expected to be in circulation this flu season.

Jerod Waters, Director of Nursing at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, said he was proud of the patient turnout on the first day of the flu clinic.

"This is a great service we are able to provide for our patients," he said. "In doing this for our patients, we improve the overall health of the community".

For more than 50 years, people have received yearly flu vaccinations at pharmacies, health clinics and physicians' offices. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continually monitor the safety of vaccines.

The flu vaccine cannot give you the flu. However, there are common side effects that include soreness at the injection site, low fever and achiness.

Chickasaw citizen Anna Sue Palmer, LPN for Infection Control and Employee Health Department at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, administers flu vaccine to a patient on opening day at the Medical Center Patient Flu Clinic, October 22.

Why is it important to get vaccinated every year?

New flu vaccines are released each year to keep up with the flu viruses that are constantly adapting. Flu viruses tend to evolve quickly, so a vaccine received last year might not protect an individual from the viruses circulating this year.

Who should get the flu vaccine?

According to the CDC, anyone six months and older should get the annual influenza vaccine. Persons at high risk for influenza complications, including older adults, young children and pregnant women, or those with certain types of chronic medical conditions, are encouraged to get vaccinated every year.

Who should not get the flu vaccine?

Those who have had a severe reaction to a previous flu vaccine should check with a doctor before getting a flu shot. Persons allergic to eggs should not get the flu vaccine as some vaccines contain small amounts of egg proteins.

There is a flu vaccine that does not contain egg proteins, that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved this vaccine for people age 18 and older. A doctor can go over all available options.

For more information on this year's flu vaccination, visit www.cdc.gov, or contact your local health department, health clinic, pharmacy or physician.

CONTRIBUTED BY Amber Carey, Public Affairs.

You can walk in at Chickasaw health clinics for your flu shot

The Chickasaw Nation Department of Health is offering flu shots for patients throughout December at its five clinic locations in Ada, Ardmore, Durant, Purcell and Tishomingo.

Flu shots are available to patients by nurse-only walk-in appointments. Patients may ask for a flu shot during a scheduled appointment with their physician.

If a Chickasaw Nation health clinic has flu shots available, the patient can receive the shot at the time of his scheduled appointment. The health clinic nurse-only flu shot scheduling dates/times for each location are:

Chickasaw Nation Medical Center Family Practice Clinic
1921 Stonecipher Blvd., Ada
(800) 851-9136
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 11:40 a.m., and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Durant Indian Health Clinic
1600 N. Washington, Durant
(877) 240-2725
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ardmore Health Clinic
2510 Chickasaw Blvd., Ardmore
(877) 242-4347
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tishomingo Health Clinic
817 E. 6th Street, Tishomingo
(877) 240-2720
Monday – Friday, 8:20 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Purcell Health Clinic
1438 Hardcastle Blvd., Purcell
(877) 584-3289
Monday – Friday, 8:20 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

CONTRIBUTED BY Amber Carey, Public Affairs.

Chickasaws join in 'Step Out Walk To Stop Diabetes' Nov. 2 at East Central University

Jeremy Hughey from the Oklahoma City area ADA office and Chickasaw citizen Shondra McCage, Diabetes Care Center Manager for the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health, prepare to participate in the Step Out Walk to Stop Diabetes on Nov. 2.

Chickasaw citizen Darrell Walker, Manager of Career Services at the Chickasaw Nation, registers to participate in the Step Out Walk at East Central University on Saturday, Nov. 2.

ADA, Okla. – More than 500 walkers attended the "Step Out Walk To Stop Diabetes" Nov. 2 on the East Central University campus. The Chickasaw Nation Diabetes Clinic partnered with the American Diabetes Association and East Central University to support diabetes research by providing educational resources for both professionals and those diagnosed with the disease.

The Chickasaw Nation Diabetes program has partnered with the American Diabetes Association for the past five years. Chickasaw Nation Diabetes Care Center Program Manager Shondra McCage, Chickasaw, is one of many volunteers. She serves as a chair for the American Diabetes Association Native American subcommittee and plays an active role in supporting the awareness of diabetes prevention and advocating the cause.

"The American Diabetes Association is a great organization and I love the volunteer work and spending time with others who are so passionate about helping people who live with diabetes, or who are trying to prevent it," Ms. McCage said. "This was our second year to host this event and we are looking forward to hosting the event next year. Our goal is to continue to make it bigger and better each year."

For more information on diabetes prevention, visit www.diabetes.org, or call the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center Diabetes Care Center at (800) 851-9136.

CONTRIBUTED BY Amber Carey, Public Affairs.

Christie Byars, Strategic Prevention Tribal Liaison for the Department of Epidemiology, Research and Public Health at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, provides information to participants at the Tishomingo Health Clinic Prescription Take Back Day, October 28.

Reducing prescription danger key at Tishomingo Health Clinic 'Prescription Take Back'

TISHOMINGO, Okla. – October is National Medication Awareness Month, and the Tishomingo Health Clinic celebrated by hosting a Prescription Take Back Day on October 28.

This free service was brought to the clinic to allow for the safe disposal of expired, unused and unwanted prescription medications. The Department of Epidemiology, Research and Public Health had a booth on hand to answer questions and the Lighthorse Police Department provided drop boxes for the disposal of medications.

The "Prescription Take Back" initiative aims to reduce the prescription drug epidemic that is occurring throughout the United States. Prescriptions play an important role in the health of millions of Americans. Expired or unused medications often stay in household medicine cabinets for months or years, and this can pose as health hazards to adults, toddlers, teens and family pets.

According to Christie Byars, Strategic Prevention Tribal Liaison for the Department of Epidemiology, Research, and Public Health at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, "The goal is to continue to inform the consumers and continue to educate them on the safe disposal of unused or unwanted medications. The Lighthorse Police Department has 22 drop boxes located throughout the Chickasaw Nation they continuously maintain; making it convenient for people to properly dispose of their old medications."

For more information on the prescription drop boxes, contact Tammy Hughes, Crime Analyst for the Lighthorse Police Department at (580) 436-1166.

CONTRIBUTED BY Amber Carey, Public Affairs.

Chickasaw Nation Prescription Take-Back Program Locations

Within the 13-county boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation, the 22 drop-off locations include:

Bryan County

· Chickasaw Nation Achille Senior Center at 104 W Main, Achille, Okla.

· Bryan County Clinic Pharmacy at 1524 W. Chuckwa, Durant, Okla.

Carter County

· Chickasaw Nation Ardmore Senior Center at 949 Locust NW, Ardmore, Okla.

· Chickasaw nation Ardmore Health Clinic at 2510 Chickasaw Blvd., Ardmore.

Garvin County

· Chickasaw Nation Pauls Valley Senior Center at 109 N. Indian Meridian Road, Pauls Valley, Okla.

· Pauls Valley Police Department at 215 North Walnut Street, Pauls Valley.

· Garvin County Court House at 201 West Grant, Pauls Valley.

Johnston County

· Chickasaw Nation Connerville Senior Center at 6700 N. Hwy. 377, Connerville, Okla.

· Chickasaw Nation Tishomingo Health Clinic Pharmacy at 815 E. 6th Street, Tishomingo, Okla.

· Chickasaw Nation Tishomingo Senior Center at 1199 W. Ray Branum Road, Tishomingo.

Marshall County

· Chickasaw Nation Madill Senior Center at corner of Hwy 70 and 5th Street, Oakland, Okla.

· Madill Police Department at 201 East Overton Street, Madill, Okla.

McClain County

· Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police Department North Office at U.S. Highway 62 and SE 32nd St., Newcastle, Okla.

· Chickasaw nation Purcell Health Clinic at 1438 Hardcastle Blvd., Purcell, Okla.

· Chickasaw Nation Purcell Senior Center at 703 Sherri Classic Blvd., Purcell.

Murray County

· Chickasaw Nation Sulphur Senior Center at 401 E. Oklahoma, Sulphur, Okla.

Pontotoc County

· Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police Department Headquarters at 1130 W. main, Ada, Okla.

· Chickasaw nation Ada Senior Center at 1005 Chamber Loop, Ada.

· Chickasaw Nation Medical Center Pharmacy at 1921 Stonecipher Blvd., Ada.

· Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center at 2205 North Broadway, Ada.

· Allen Police Department at 109 N. Memphis St., Allen, Okla.

· Chickasaw Nation Kullihoma Senior Center (12 miles east of Ada on Hwy. 1, then 5 miles south on Kullihoma Road).

Eagle Book Series author and illustrators working together for diabetes education

SULPHUR, Okla. – Through Dec. 27, children and their families can enjoy a unique collection of 65 original watercolor paintings that send the message of healthy living.

The special exhibition is "Through the Eyes of the Eagle: Illustrating Healthy Living for Children." The paintings are on display at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, and the exhibit is being presented by the Cultural Center, Chickasaw Nation Arts and Humanities and Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services.

In partnership with the Centers for Disease Control, the tribal entities are reaching out to send the message of the benefits of healthy living.

The watercolors have been produced by Patrick Rolo (Bad River Band of Ojibwe, Wisconsin) and Lisa A. Fifield (Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, Black Bear Clan). The pieces are part of the illustration for The Eagle Books, a series of four children's books that encourage a return to traditional ways including physical activity and healthy eating.

The exhibit is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

Dr. Judy Goforth Parker is Secretary of the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health. Dr. Parker has been involved with the Eagle Books since their creative inception.

"Sometimes, you have the opportunity to look back and realize that you were involved in something really special," Dr. Parker said. "The Eagle Book Series holds that special place in my heart. I hope these books will continue to be an inspiration to help native youth live healthy lives and avoid diabetes."

The books are a result of the collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Humas Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Native Diabetes Wellness Program, U.S. Indian Health Service and the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee.

The Eagle Book Series was authored by Georgia Perez, of Nambe Pueblo, N.M. The Eagle stories came to Ms. Perez in a recurring dream of an eagle that told the author how native youth could be healthy again.

Learning about plant growth

Chickasaw students Cydnee Miller, left, a fourth grader at Washington Elementary School in Ada, Okla., and her sister Makynlee Miller, a fifth grader at Willard Elementary School in Ada, learn how to grow celery from Rhonda Sellers, Ecological Resource Coordinator for the Chickasaw Nation Horticulture Department at the Arts & Humanities Building in Ada, as part of the activities conducted in coordination with the Eagle Exhibit.

To date, over two million Eagle Series books have been distributed throughout Indian County and the U.S.

The Eagle Book Series is also used by Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services, in coordination with Oklahoma State University, in the Eagle Adventure program. The program is for children in first through third grades. It promotes type 2 diabetes awareness as well as physical activity and good eating habits.

For more information about the Eagle Adventure program, visit www.eagleadventure.com

You can learn more about The Eagle Book Series at www.cdc.gov/diabetes

Watercolor exhibit promotes healthy living

Bryson Tuck, a student from Honobia, Okla., visits the Eagle Exhibit at the Chickasaw Nation Cultural Center in Sulphur, Ok, Nov. 2.

Above are before and after photos of the space saved at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center pharmacy with the new Intellicab prescription storage system. The bottom photos show the progression the pharmacist or technician goes through to ensure proper dispensing of medication.

Medical Center pharmacy now operating safer, more secure prescription storage

Patients visiting the pharmacy at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center will notice some changes behind the counter. The white prescription sacks that once lined the shelves are now a thing of the past. The Medical Center is the second facility in the state of Oklahoma to implement a new will-call system for prescription storage.

The GSL Intellicab will-call system provides state-of-the-art prescription storage that safely secures medications until time of pick up. It tracks and stores prescription medications, and streamlines the pharmacy operation from end to end.

Previously, prescriptions were filled and placed on shelves inside the pharmacy.

In the past, many pharmacies throughout the state and nation have faced similar issues including hanging bags, open shelves, drawers, bins and open-faced cubbies. The GSL solution makes prescription pick up safer and easier for the patients and the staff.

The new system provides added privacy for each individual patient, as well as added convenience for the pharmacy staff. With three steps, pharmacy workers look up, authenticate and retrieve the prescription for the patient.

GSL Intellicab requires two patient identifiers, patient name and date of birth. This ensures patients receive the correct prescription medication. In addition, the system ensures patients receive all medication ordered by their physicians. This extra tracking feature prevents patients from going home and realizing they have not been given all their prescribed medications. Appropriate patient information is given to each patient when medications are picked up.

"(The system) has saved much needed space within the medical center pharmacy, and has also proven to be a more successful way to secure each patient's personal information," Chickasaw Nation Medical Center directory of pharmacy Dr. Carrie Law said. "The GSL Intellicab system tracks prescriptions and allows the pharmacy to keep a record of prescription storage.

"Patients' signatures are also required at the time of pick up to verify delivery. This is a great way for the pharmacy department to enhance the overall patient experience and we look forward to continuing to serve our patients with this new product".

CONTRIBUTED BY Amber Carey, Public Affairs.

March of Dimes for Babies Walk

Chickasaw Nation team raises over $3,000; charity focuses on premature births

Chickasaw Nation team

Chickasaw Nation March of Dimes for Babies team at the March of Dimes for Babies Walk, Nov. 2 at Wintersmith Park, Ada, Okla.

ADA, Okla. - More than 60 people representing the Chickasaw Nation took part in the March of Dimes for Babies Nov. 2 at Wintersmith Park in Ada.

The team raised more than $3,000 for the March of Dimes. The Chickasaw Nation team placed second of the top five teams receiving awards.

"The March of Dimes is a very important event because it is all about helping the babies," Deanna Carpitche, MSPI Project Coordinator for the Chickasaw Nation Office of Community Based Services, said. "March of Dimes research is instrumental for getting the screenings and tests done on all babies; saving thousands of lives."

March of Dimes Foundation was founded in 1938 by President Franklin Roosevelt to save the lives of American youth suffering from polio. Within seven years, the foundation switched from fighting polio to addressing premature births. Today, March of Dimes continues to use its researchers, volunteers, outreach workers and advocates to give babies a fighting chance against health threats.

For more information on March of Dimes Foundation, visit www.marchofdimes.com or call Deanna Carpitche, Chickasaw Nation MSPI Project Coordinator at (580) 559-0810, ext. 60495.

CONTRIBUTED BY Amber Carey, Public Affairs.

Chickasaw citizens Thalia Walton, right, Medical Support Technician at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center; her daughter, Felicia McDonald; and granddaughter, Ariyanna Walker, walk in the March of Dimes event Nov. 2 at Wintersmith Park in Ada, Okla.

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Apply in person at
601 N Brentwood in Marietta
or online at www.chickasaw.com/careers

Call 580-276-3305 for details

CHICKASAW COMMUNITY COUNCILS

For a complete listing of Chickasaw Nation camps, academies and other events visit www.chickasaw.net

OKLAHOMA
ACHILLE
Achille Area Chickasaws
Quarterly, last Saturday at 1:30 p.m.
Kay Anders, 580-283-3979

CONNERVILLE
Connerville Chickasaw Community Council
Bi-Monthly, 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Tony Poe, 580-421-4994

KINGSTON
Chickasaws of Texoma
Quarterly, 4th Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
Ruth McAdoo, 580-564-6803

Marshall County Chickasaw Community Council
Quarterly, 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Sarah Lea, 580-564-4570

NEWCASTLE
Northern Pontotoc Chickasaw Community Council
Monthly, 2nd Thursday
Potluck at 6 p.m. and Meeting at 7 p.m.
Todd Griffith, 405-615-1303

OKLAHOMA CITY
OKC Metro Chickasaw Community Council
1st Tuesday
Potluck at 6 p.m. and Meeting at 7 p.m.
Betty Smith at (405) 348-7459
pikeyscrossing@yahoo.com

PURCELL
Purcell Chickasaw Community Council
4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
Carolee Maxwell, 405-527-7676

TISHOMINGO
Johnston County Chickasaw Community Council
Bi-monthly, 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Ann Fink, 580-371-3351

ARIZONA
Chickasaws of Arizona
Quarterly Meetings
Angie Ott, 480-834-7309

CALIFORNIA
Southern California Chickasaw Community Council
Quarterly, 3rd Saturday 2:00 p.m.
Bill Chandler, 714-604-5224 or wchandler@socal.rr.com

Northern California Chickasaw Citizen Connection
Quarterly
Phil Reynolds, 916-988-8182

COLORADO
Chickasaw Community Council of Colorado
Bi-Monthly
Stephen Bingham, 303-377-4637

KANSAS
Chickasaw Community Council of Wichita
Quarterly, 3rd Sunday at 2:30 p.m.
Lynn Stumblingbear, (316) 945-9219
LOUISIANA
Monroe Area Chickasaw Citizen Connection
Semi-Annually
Chickasaw Outreach, 580-332-1165

MISSOURI
St. Louis Area Chickasaw Citizen Connection
Quarterly
Chickasaw Outreach, 580-332-1165

NEW ENGLAND
New England Chickasaw Citizen Connection
Semi-Annually
Chickasaw Outreach, 580-332-1165

NEW MEXICO
New Mexico Chickasaw Community Council
Quarterly
Rita Yepa, 505-350-8372

OREGON/WASHINGTON
Pacific Northwest Chickasaw Community Council
Quarterly
Kim Factor, 503-819-3097 or Rena Smith, 503-543-7401

TEXAS
Chickasaw Community Council of Central Texas
2nd Sunday at 2 p.m.
Charles Holland, 512-341-0024
Chickasaw Community Council of South Texas
Monthly, 2nd Sunday at 2 p.m.
Nancy McLarry, 830-537-4576 or 210-313-4576
npm@gvtc.com

North Texas Chickasaw Community Council
3rd Saturday, Bedford, Texas
Sandra Williams, 817-688-6566
sandyntx@sbcglobal.net

Tyler Area Chickasaw Community Council
Quarterly
Howard Thompson, 903-570-9244

Listening, language, patience are keys

First responders learn keys to identifying domestic violence

Indian Country Strangulation and Suffocation Seminar presenters include members from the medical, law enforcement, advocacy and criminal prosecution fields. Pictured from left are, Debra Campbell, RN and sexual assault nurse examiner; Teresa Morgan, domestic violence prevention specialist; Robin Rollins, assistant district attorney general for the Chickasaw Nation; Jeff Rollins, paramedic supervisor at Mercy Hospital; and Lighthorse Police Sgt. Dusk Monetathchi.

Domestic violence is serious issue in Indian Country, and across the country. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey 2010 reported that more than 45 percent of Native American women have experienced rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

According to Chickasaw Nation Assistant Attorney General Robin Rollins, in an average year Oklahoma law enforcement agencies receive 15,000 calls involving domestic violence, or about 41 calls every day.

"Domestic violence is a lot more prevalent than you think," Ms. Rollins said. "This is not a new issue and most of the complaints received include felony assault and battery."

A study released in September by the National Violence Policy Center ranked Oklahoma third in the nation for most women killed by men. The study found that 97 percent of the victims knew their assailants. More than 60 percent of those killed were wives, ex-wives or girlfriends of the offenders.

"Domestic violence is a pattern of power and control," Ms. Rollins said. "Once the abuser knows he can use violence as a form of control, he will use it over and over again, sometimes with deadly results."

First responders from within the Chickasaw Nation recently attended the Indian Country Strangulation and Suffocation Seminar presented by the Office of Violence Prevention and the Chickasaw Nation Department of Justice. More than 30 first responders participated in the seminar at the Lighthorse Police Department in Ada.

Professionals from law enforcement agencies, medical technicians, hospital chaplains, mental health councilors and attorneys attended the event to receive training and share expertise between fields.

Victims of domestic violence come into contact with many people when reporting their crime. First responders work together to make the victim safe from abuse.

"The seminar is helpful," Chickasaw Nation victims advocate Erica Minor said. "I see victims after they are healing and ready to leave their abuser. It is great to hear what others who see victims before me have to go through and pay attention to."

Many who care for domestic violence victims are unaware of the chain of events that brought victims into their care. Communication and precise documentation among groups can be critically important as victims pass through their care.

"The policies and procedures first responders follow are important," Lighthorse Sgt. Dusk Monetathchi said. "They tell us how to behave and what guidelines to take. It is important to document as much as possible, and in a language that is not ambiguous."

For prosecution purposes, language used in reports can make all the difference in future cases. According to Sgt. Monetathchi, victims often report being "choked out" or "he had me in a chokehold." To the average person this choking also means strangulation, but in the medical field these are technically different events.

This slight difference in wording can change the charges leveled against the attacker and the way lawyers prosecute the case.

"It is important to get information up front and document everything," Sgt. Monetathchi said. "The courtroom often makes people nervous. If we have enough information and documentation, the victim may not have to be present to face their attacker during court proceedings. We must become experts with our testimony."

Native American culture, Sgt. Monetathchi said, may cause additional obstacles of which first responders need to be aware. It often takes more time and patience to build trust with these victims.

"It takes a little more work to get information from a traditional culture," Sgt. Monetathchi said. "I generally talk about everything under the sun to build a report and trust before I talk about the assault."

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.

About Indian Country Strangulation and Suffocation Seminar

Robin Rollins, assistant attorney general for the Chickasaw Nation, attended the national training seminar presented by the Department of Justice's National Indian Country Training Institute.

At the seminar, Ms. Rollins learned how to develop effective training curriculum and techniques to share with other professionals within her area about the dangers, signs and symptoms of victims who suffer strangulation and suffocation.

The four-day course was for experienced federal and tribal multi-disciplinary professionals who work domestic violence cases within Indian Country. They were prepared to return and share their knowledge with personnel who will later become expert witnesses in court cases.

Chickasaw Foundation *Friends of the Foundation*

The Chickasaw Foundation hosts the Friends of the Foundation reception annually to honor our donors and volunteers. The event this year was held at the Chickasaw Nation Community Center in Ada on November 15th. During the reception, a silent auction was held to fund the *Chickasaw Foundation Fine Arts Scholarship*. This scholarship is for any college student with a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood card who is majoring in fine arts (arts, music, dramatics and dance).

Each year awards are given to outstanding individuals who have made a difference through their contributions to the Chickasaw Foundation. This year's award recipients include:

Volunteer of the Year – Ms. Rhonda Ellett has been a volunteer for the Chickasaw Foundation for the last 4 years serving at our annual t-ball tournament, scholarship reception and Friends of the Foundation reception. She is a hard worker and always pleasant to be around.

Volunteer of the Year – Mr. Paul Baken has been a yearly volunteer at our events as well. He is one of the strong arms of the annual t-ball tournament by helping with field prep and umpiring. He also has assisted with our scholarship reception and Friends of the Foundation reception. Paul is easy going and a hard worker.

Circle of Friends Award – The Chickasaw Nation Division of Social Services - This division held fundraisers and donated to start *The Chickasaw Nation Division of Social Services General Educational Scholarship* for undergraduate Chickasaw students. They were challenged with goals as a division and decided a scholarship would be their top priority. They want to assist Chickasaw citizens to further their education and see their dreams become a reality, and support them 100% percent as stated by their executive officer, Ms. Leta Burwell.

Circle of Friends Award – The Chickasaw Ada Wellness Program – The staff of the Ada Wellness Center started *The Chickasaw Nation Ada Wellness Program Scholarship* for an undergraduate Chickasaw student majoring in kinesiology or recreation. The award is funded by their employee's individual donations and fundraisers held for the public. The wellness center currently has three employees who obtained degrees and know the importance of graduating from college. They wanted to help ease the pressure of school by financially assisting a student according to Melinda Ward, manager.

ECCP Donor of the Year – Mr. Chuck Dougherty – Chuck has participated in the Employee Charitable Contribution Plan since he began his employment with the Chickasaw Nation in 2006. He currently serves as the chief information officer. He is married to Regina and they have four children. Chuck is active in the annual food drive hosted by the Division of Social Services for the Thanksgiving food baskets. He is a loyal blood donor and loves to hunt.

Patron of the Year – Mr. Glenn Norris – Mr. Norris established the *Lula Bynum Bourland Memorial Scholarship* in honor of his mother. Lula was a student at Bloomfield Academy and later taught in a single room schoolhouse. Education has remained vitally important to their family, and teachers among his mother's descendants are numerous. Mr. Norris feels it is only reasonable his mother would have approved of an effort to help provide advanced schooling for a Chickasaw student.

This year along with our regular awardees we had a couple of volunteers who worked hard and deserved special recognition as well. Ms. Deborah Hook and Mr. Checed Rogers – Deborah and Checed served on our scholarship advisory sub-committee. This year after completing the reviews on their own list of scholarships, they substituted for those who were unable to complete the reviews. Both were extremely through in reviewing applications and this helped make our job easier.

Lamb, Nagorski, Owens are Chickasaw Foundation scholarship recipients

Bank2 Banking Scholarship - In Memory of Mr. Robert Walton – Ms. Danielle Lamb is a freshman at the University of Missouri – Columbia majoring in business and minoring in marketing. She wants to utilize her business degree in her future banking career.

Danielle Lamb

Lula Bynum Bourland Memorial Scholarship – Ms. Savanna Nagorski is a senior at the University of Washington – Tacoma majoring in sustainable urban development and her minor is Geographical Information Systems. Her goal is to continue to learn the depth of community and urban development that promotes a positive welfare for the surrounding environment, a balanced and supportive economic stability and encourage social equity and justice.

Savanna Nagorski

Division on Aging Scholarship – Ms. Tiffany Owens is a junior at East Central University majoring in nursing. Her goal is to become a Certified Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and to work with the elderly.

Tiffany Owens

Chickasaw Foundation Announces Scholarship Openings

The Chickasaw Foundation announces the opening of two scholarships for Spring 2014. All scholarship applications and supporting documentation must be delivered or postmarked by the stated deadline of January 11, 2014 to be considered for funding. The following scholarships are available.

The Chickasaw Foundation Nonprofit Management Scholarship is for a full-time Chickasaw student with a GPA of 3.0 or higher who is an undergraduate or graduate student at a four-year college or university. The student must be pursuing a nonprofit management certification.

The John Bennett Herrington Scholarship is for a full-time Chickasaw student with a GPA of 2.5 or higher in their junior or senior year at any four-year college or university. The student must be pursuing a degree in engineering, physics, chemistry, mathematics, geophysics, natural science or a related field approved by the Chickasaw Foundation Board of Trustees. They must have a demonstrated interest in space aeronautics.

If you would like to receive an application, please contact the Chickasaw Foundation at (580) 421-9030 or visit our website at www.chickasawfoundation.org.

Foundation Annual T-Ball Tournament set for April 25-26, 2014 at Chickasaw Nation Softball Complex

The 6th annual t-ball tournament will be April 25-26, 2014 at the Chickasaw Nation Softball Complex in Ada. This will be a double-elimination tournament and only the first ten teams will be accepted. The entry fee is $100 and the age cut-off date is January 1. Players must be 6 years old on or before December 31 to play.

Employee Charitable Contribution Plan

The Chickasaw Foundation is greatly appreciative to employees who elected to donate to the Foundation through the Employee Charitable Contribution Plan (ECCP). We will mail receipts to ECCP participants who contributed over $250 to the Foundation during 2013. Upon request we will also issue receipts for those who contributed other amounts. Please include your current mailing address when requesting a receipt. You may contact our office by calling (580) 421-9030 or by e-mail at ChickasawFoundation@chickasaw.net.

Thank you for your continued support, and for helping to make a difference in the lives of others!

"The life of a man consists not in seeing visions and in dreaming dreams, but in active charity and in willing service" – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Mary Lois Clifford

ADA — Mary Lois Clifford, 98, of Ada, Okla., died Nov. 5, 2013, at her home. Services were Nov. 9, 2013, at Rocky Point Missionary Baptist Church at Lula, Okla. Rev. Don Parr officiated. Burial followed at Lula Cemetery.

She was born Nov. 19, 1914, at Lula to Henderson G. "Sonny" and Bessie Cross Gore.

She graduated from Chilocco High School in 1932. She also went to school at Lula through the 10th grade.

She married Dillon Raymond "Chock" Clifford in 1933 at Stonewall, Okla. He died Aug. 12, 1981.

During World War II, Mrs. Clifford was a welder. Later, she was a seamstress at the Wrangler Plant and had worked in housekeeping at Valley View Regional Hospital until her retirement. She was a member of Rocky Point Missionary Baptist Church and a former member of the Lula Home Demonstration Club.

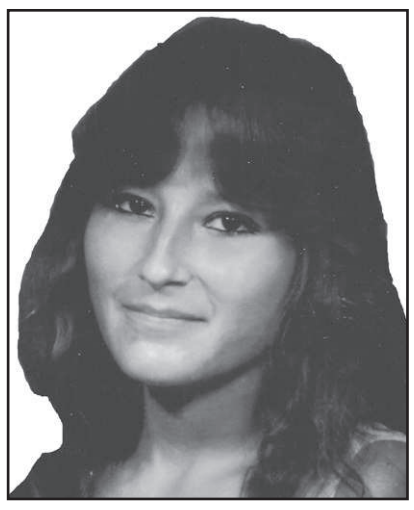
She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a son, Dickie Clifford; four sons-in-law, Clovis Thompson, Louis Hale, Bobby Joe Sweat, and Charles (Sonny) Leader; two great-granddaughters, Nanette Brauning and Ryan Clifford; and a sister, Oma Hokett.

She is survived by four daughters, Maxine Sweat, Stonewall, Okla.; Marcine Brooks and husband, Donald, Lula; Helen Leader, Bowlegs, Okla., and Debbie Kindrick and husband, Will, Savannah, Texas; three sons, John Clifford, Owl Creek, Okla.; Donnie Clifford and Ronnie Clifford, both of Ada; a sister-in-law, Louise McCurdy, Ventura, Calif.; 19 grandchildren, Debbie Ann Herndon, Rickey Thompson, Linda Forrester, Bessie Eddy, Dwayne Brooks, Diana Banker, Kay Brauning, Sami Clifford, Terri Escobedo, Traci Jimenez, Dayton Clifford, Dakota Clifford, Stormy Clifford, Justin Clifford, Tiffany Clifford, Davey Johnston, Janet Milburn, Jared Clifford and Daniel Clifford; 39 great-grandchildren, Kristen, Brooke, Sarah, Brandon, Ricky, Billy, Brandi, LaRhonda, Ronnie Alan, Lindsay, Michael, Christopher, Jeff, Derek, Aubrie, Desirae, Jamie, Dennis, Justin, Jason, Megan, Morgan, Lance, Sherri, Clayton, Rebecca, Elena, Maddy, Rylan, Rush, Remington, Dawson, Bryce, Treston, Emma, Chase Ryan, Diana, Alison and Ashley; 27 great-great-grandchildren, Isaiah, Cetieva, Patience, Gague, Hunter, Logan, Anberlynne, Aiden, Juliette, Cheyenne, Chloe, Ella, Payton, Kade, Kamdym, Boston Charles, Abri Lynn, Wynter, Summer, Chebon, Christian, Anthony, Max, Chloe, Camryn, Brison and Brianna; one great-great-great grandchild, Aliyah; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Bearers were her grandsons. Honorary bearers were her great-grandsons.

Obituaries may be viewed and online condolences may be sent to criswellfh.com.

Latisha (Day) Gibson



Latisha (Day) Gibson, 47, of Ardmore, Okla., died Nov. 1, 2013. Graveside services were Nov. 6, 2013 at McAlister Cemetery, Overbrook, Okla.

She was born Sept. 26, 1966 to Royce Nathaniel Day and JoAnn (Marris) Day at Ardmore. She lived in Ardmore her whole life. She married Lee Franklin Gibson, Jr. They had two children, Sonya and Lee.

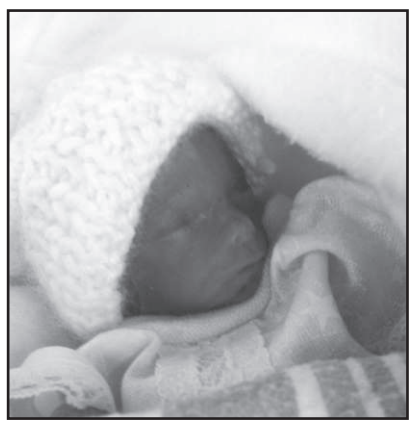
Mrs. Gibson enjoyed working puzzle books, fishing and collecting dolls and Indian art. She dedicated her life to taking care of her sister, Bonnie and nephew, Joe. She loved spending time with her friends and family.

She was preceded in death by a daughter Hannah Nicole Gibson; grandparents, Dolph and May Marris and Everett and Hazel West; uncle, Edmond Marris; sister, Gwenda Garcia; and nephew, John David Day.

She is survived by a daughter, Sonya Payan and husband, Ulises; a son, Lee N. Gibson and wife, Jessica; grandchildren, Anzleigh Gibson and Lee Gibson; parents, Royce and JoAnn Day; spouse of seven years, John Tunnell; brothers, Royce Day and Dino Marris sisters, Yolanda Day and Bonnie Day; nephew, Joe Day and a host of nieces.

Condolences may be left at www.Griffin-HillcrestFH.com

Reagan Michelle Deck



Reagan Michelle Deck passed peacefully in the arms of her loving family on November 9, 2013. Funeral services were Nov. 13 at Solid Rock House of Ministries, Ardmore, Okla., with Pastor Steve Skinner officiating. Cremation services followed.

Reagan Michelle was born Nov. 9, 2013 to Jennifer Michelle Deck, of Purcell, Okla. During her three short hours on Earth she touched many lives and was loved deeply by family and friends. Her life was a brief gift to us.

She is survived by one sibling, Tatum McCraw; her maternal grandparents Darrell and Vicky Deck, of Norman, Okla.; maternal great-grandparents Craig and Linda McCall, of Ardmore; aunts and uncles, Tiffany and Dustin Laxton, of Norman and Cassie Deck and Guy Kaniatobe, of Norman; cousins, Madison Deck, Emily Laxton, Logan Laxton and Jaylynn Kaniatobe; and paternal grandmother, Judy Hughes.

Condolences may be left at www.Griffin-HillcrestFH.com

Veronica (Kay) Brown Stewart

Veronica "Kay" Brown Stewart, 48, died Nov. 6, 2013 at Ada, Okla. Graveside services were Nov. 9, 2013 at Durwood Cemetery with Reverend Roy Fountain officiating.

She was born Dec. 28, 1964 to Joe Steven Brown and Arnetta Higgins at Lawton, Okla.

She loved playing softball and basketball. She was a Christian who loved to visit all different churches. She was able to see her grandson before she passed away.

She was preceded in death by her father, Joe Steven Brown.

She is survived by a son, Kelvin Conway and wife, Megan; mother, Arnetta Higgins; a sister, Kimberly Barras and husband, Troy; grandson, Ethan Conway; and nephew, Aaron Nicholas St. Clair.

Pallbearers were Bryan Davidson, Troy Barras, Michael Jefferson, Winston Jefferson, Robby Dodson and Ken Clifton.

Condolences may be left at www.Griffin-HillcrestFH.com

Ramona L. Blanchard

Ramona L. Blanchard, 71, died November 15, 2013 at her residence. Funeral services were Nov. 19 at Bradley's Colonial Chapel. Interment followed at Mt.Zion Cemetery.

She was the granddaughter of Mary Love, an original enrollee.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Deborah Robinson-Herron.

She is survived by sisters, Pat Hatcher, of Owensboro, Kent., and Dixie Boudreau; brothers, Stan Blanchard and Elmer (Rocky) Blanchard, all of Richland, Ind.; several nieces, nephews; and one special nephew she adored.

She was active in the Native American Culture and was proud of her Chickasaw Heritage.

Condolences to the family can be sent online to www.bradleyscc.com.

Taloah Thompson Thorpe

Taloah Thompson Thorpe, 86, died Nov. 4, 2013. Memorial services were Nov. 16, 2013 at New Hope Presbyterian Church, Castle Rock, Color.

She was born August 20, 1927 to the late Thomas Benjamin Thompson, Jr. and Thelma Flodell Dabney Thompson. She was a descendent of original enrollee and Hall of Fame inductee Thomas Benjamin Thompson, Sr. of Castle Rock, formerly of Evergreen, Colo., and Oklahoma City.

She was married to William Gene Thorpe. He preceded her in death, May 24, 2010.

She was preceded in death by a son, Samuel Gene Thorpe.

She is survived by a brother, Chickasaw Hall of Fame inductee, Gene (Nashoba) Thompson (Eugene Glenn Thompson) and his family; two children, Thomas Thorpe, of Ira, Texas; daughter-in-law Gloria Velasquez, of Highlands Ranch, Colo; Terrance Thorpe and wife, Linda, of Franktown, Colo.; seven grandchildren, Jed, Ruby, Elizabeth, Amy, David, Benjamin and Sarah; four great-grandchildren, Ella, Samson, Noah and Madison.

Taloah, Chickasaw for Song or Songbird will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, friend, Chickasaw Elder and Thompson family matriarch.

She was so caring and sweet everyone who met her wanted to be her friend.

She will be missed by all her family and friends. She was a proud Chickasaw and often did Indian Storytelling to children and seniors in the tradition of her Aunt, TeAta Thompson Fisher

She accepted Thomas Benjamin Thompson's Hall of Fame medal on behalf of the Thompson Family at his induction into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Nature Conservancy at (800) 628-6860 memorial account 12859633 or World Vision at (888) 511-6519 memorial fund 105429620.

Margaret M. (Woolery) Whitsett

Margaret M. (Woolery) Whitsett, 91, died November 16, 2013, at Ardmore, Okla. Graveside services were November 20, 2013, at Hillcrest Memorial Park, Ardmore, Her grandson, Dennis Mark, will officiate.

She was born August 28, 1922, to Clyde Nichols and Edna M. (Worley) Nichols at Mannsville, Okla. She graduated from Mannsville High School. She married Leonard Woolery February 22, 1941.

Mrs. Whitsett enjoyed working crossword puzzles and word search books. She loved arts and crafts. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

She retired from Western Electric in Oklahoma City, where she was a supervisor in the telephone assembly division.

Leonard Woolery died July 1978, and after sixteen years of widowhood, she married Finis Whitsett October 15, 1994. He preceded her in death August 1995.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clyde and Edna Nichols; husbands, Leonard Woolery and Finis Whitsett; a brother Walter "Nick" Nichols; and sisters, Mae Smith, and Mattie Jo Mark.

She is survived by a daughter, Diana Walters, of Ardmore; four grandchildren, Dennis J. Mark, of Spring, Texas, Crystal Marris, of Lone Grove, Okla., Teri Purvis, of Lockhart, Texas, and Henry "Pete" Walters, of Hallsville, Texas; nine great-grandchildren; sisters, Sue Eubank, of Ardmore, and Peggy Harmon of Whitesboro, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Condolences may be left at www.Griffin-HillcrestFH.com.

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Chickasaw Citizen

2013 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District
Seat #

1. Toby Perkins
   15810 CR 1569
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 399-2606 Cell
   Toby.Perkins@chickasaw.net

2. Nancy Elliott
   620 Ann
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 399-4374
   Nancy.Elliott@chickasaw.net

3. Katie Case
   14368 County Road 3597
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 272-8385
   Katie.Case@chickasaw.net

4. Dean McManus
   5980 CR 3430
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 235-2651
   Dean.McManus@chickasaw.net

5. Mary Jo Green
   2000 E. 14th Place
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 310-4563
   Mary.Green@chickasaw.net

Pickens District
Seat #

1. David Woerz
   P.O. Box 669
   Ardmore, OK 73402
   (580) 235-3240
   David.Woerz@chickasaw.net

2. Connie Barker
   509 SW 7th Ave.
   Marietta, OK 73448
   (580) 272-4175
   Connie.Barker@chickasaw.net

3. Linda Briggs
   P.O. Box 241
   Marietta, OK 73448
   (580) 272-7268
   Linda.Briggs@chickasaw.net

4. Shana Tate Hammond
   1606 Southern Hills Drive
   Ardmore, Oklahoma, 73401
   (580) 235-1438
   Shana.Hammond@chickasaw.net

Tishomingo District
Seat #

1. Scott Wood
   204 East Main Street
   Tishomingo, OK 73460
   (580) 221-1430
   S.Wood@chickasaw.net

2. Tim Colbert
   P.O. Box 773
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 421-7242
   Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net

3. Steven Woods
   5071 Gray's Road
   Davis, OK 73030
   (580) 272-7270
   Steve.Woods@chickasaw.net

Panola District
Seat #

1. Beth Alexander
   PO Box 246
   Achille, OK 74720
   (580) 272-7850
   beth.alexander@chickasaw.net
   bethalexander22@hotmail.com

LEGISLATIVE MINUTES

CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
Legislature Building
Ada, Oklahoma
October 25, 2013

AGENDA ITEM #1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Steve Woods called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2 ROLL CALL

Members present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus (Late Arrival, 9:09 a.m.), Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

Member absent: Linda Briggs

Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary, Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms, Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel

Guests present: Jimmie Jennings, Mike Watson, Michael L. Wingo, Dana Lance, Mike McKee, Jacquelyn Sparks, Michael Kubilis

AGENDA ITEM #3 INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Ms. Green.

AGENDA ITEM #4 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairperson Woods opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson.

Mr. Woerz nominated Mr. Woods for Chairperson. Ms. Barker seconded the nomination. Mrs. Alexander nominated Ms. Barker for Chairperson. Ms. Case seconded the nomination. Secret ballots were cast and Mr. Steve Woods was elected Chairperson.

Ms. McManus was present.

Chairperson Woods opened the floor for nomination for Secretary.

Mr. Wood nominated Ms. Barker for Secretary. Ms. Hammond seconded the nomination. A motion was made by Mr. Colbert and seconded by Ms. Elliott that Ms. Barker be elected by acclamation. All members were in agreement with the motion. Ms. Barker was declared Secretary by acclamation.

Chairperson Woods appointed Ms. Sellers as Recording Secretary. Ms. Green seconded the appointment. All were in agreement with the appointment.

Chairperson Woods appointed Mr. Stick as Sergeant-At-Arms. All were in agreement with the appointment.

AGENDA ITEM #5 READING OF MINUTES - September 20, 2013

A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Elliott to approve the minutes of September 20, 2013.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

12 yes votes

The motion to approve the minutes of September 20, 2013, carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #6: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

AGENDA ITEM #7: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(A) **HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Dean McManus**

General Resolution Number 31-001, Approval of Application for Funding

Grants for Native Americans and Native American Caregiver Support Program

This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's application to the Administration for Community Living/ Administration on Aging for funding to help the Chickasaw Nation Division on Aging to provide nutritional and supportive services to Native American elders. This program assists families in caring for an older relative with a chronic illness or disability. The program helps tribes provide multifaceted systems of support services for family caregivers of elders.

A motion was made by Mr. Perkins and seconded by Ms. Elliott to approve GR31-001.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

12 yes votes

The motion to approve GR31-001 carried unanimously.

Ms. McManus concluded her report.

(B) **LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT** by Committee Chair Linda Briggs

Ms. Woerz gave the Land Development Committee report in the absence of Ms. Briggs.

General Resolution Number 31-002, Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Johnston County

This Resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property in Tishomingo, Johnston County Oklahoma, for the expansion of the Chickasaw Nation properties adjoining the south side of the old Tishomingo Health Clinic.

A motion was made by Mr. Colbert and seconded by Mr. Wood to approve GR31-002.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

12 yes votes

The motion to approve GR31-002 carried unanimously.

Mr. Woerz concluded his report.

AGENDA ITEM #8 NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)

Mr. Jim Jennings voiced the need of a wellness center in Duncan, the support of Legislators attending events in the Duncan area, and the need of junior high and high school students to attend Legislative Sessions and become active in the Tribe.

Mr. Mike Watson commented on per capita payments to citizens and elders being denied services for LIHEAP.

Ms. Hammond commented on a Chickasaw youth that is in training in Colorado Spring for the 2016 Olympics.

AGENDA ITEM #9 ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Barker, Secretary
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

Prepared by: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

NOVEMBER 2013 RESOLUTIONS

General Resolution Number 31-003
Authorization and Approval of Business Lease on Joint Tract in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma

Explanation: This resolution approves the Business Lease G09-1778 to Vangard Wireless, LLC, of 301 North Fairfax Street, Suite 101, Alexandra, Virginia 22314, for a cellphone tower on a joint tract of land containing 4.93 acres in Pittsburg County, Choctaw Nation. The term of the lease is Ten (10) years beginning on September 1, 2010 and ending on August 31, 2020. The per annum lease amount is $3,000.00 of which the Chickasaw Nation will receive a ¼ share or $750.00 per annum. This appraised value for this lease is more than the lease amount, but the Choctaw Nation, being the majority shareholder has already approved the lease in Council Bill CB-79-13 and executed the lease documents.

Property Location: Pittsburg County, Choctaw Nation

Presented By: Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

General Resolution Number 31-004
Authorization and Approval of Agricultural Lease in Atoka County

Explanation: This resolution approves Agricultural Lease No. G09-1819, for grazing purposes only, on property belonging to the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, described as: All of Section 18, Township 2 North, Range 12 East, Atoka County, Oklahoma, containing 632.32 acres, more or less, in favor of Ewing and Donna Downen. The proposed lease will be for a three (3) year term beginning January 1, 2013, and expiring on December 31, 2015, with a per annum payment of $9,500.00, of which the Chickasaw Nation will receive $2,375.00 per annum.

Property Location: Atoka County, Choctaw Nation

Presented by: Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

General Resolution Number 31-005
Utility Service Easement in Pontotoc County

Explanation: This resolution authorizes and approves a utility easement granted to OG&E Electric Services to service the Chickasaw Nation Childcare Campus north of Rosedale Road in Ada. This easement replaces a former unrecorded easement and is upgraded to service the Childcare Campus.

Property Location: Chickasaw Nation Childcare Campus in Ada

Use: Utility Service Easement to OG&E Electric Service

Presented By: Land Development Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

General Resolution Number 31-006
Authorization for Participation in New Market Tax Credit Transaction
(NMTC Transaction)

Explanation: This resolution authorizes the participation in a $25,000,000 New Market Tax Credit ("NMTC") Transaction to renovate and repurpose the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility into a multi-function tribal services complex with Cherokee Nation CNB Economic Development Company and a qualified investor which will result in a net investment return into the Project of approximately $4,400,000; authorizing documents as may be necessary or required; authorizing the limited waiver of sovereign immunity of the Chickasaw Nation in connection with the NMTC Transaction; and containing other provisions relating thereto.

Presented by: Legislative Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

Permanent Resolution Number 31-001
Amendments to Title 2, Chapter 5, Articles C and E of the Chickasaw Nation Code

(Personnel Rules and Regulations)

Explanation: This Resolution allows day-to-day matters of personnel management to be governed by tribal employment policies rather than addressing the intricate details of personnel management though tribal law. It provides that all employees of the Executive, Legislative or Judicial Departments of the Chickasaw Nation are included in the scope of this Act. However, the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments each retain the right to adopt existing tribal employment policies or to develop their own employment policies not otherwise in conflict with this Act.

Presented by: Legislative Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole
November 12, 2013

Present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods

Absent: David Woerz, Scott Wood

Education Committee
November 12, 2013

Present: Nancy Elliott, Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods

Finance Committee
November 4, 2013

Present: Toby Perkins, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Steve Woods

Absent: David Woerz

Land Development Committee
November 12, 2013

Present: Linda Briggs, Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Tim Colbert, Mary Jo Green, Steve Woods

Absent: David Woerz

Legislative Committee
November 4, 2013

Present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods

Absent: David Woerz, Scott Wood

Christmas at the Museums
Progressive Dinner
December 14, 2013
4 - 7 p.m.
Chickasaw Council House—Appetizers
Chickasaw Capitol—Variety of Stews
Chickasaw White House—Desserts
Come and enjoy the festive decor,
music and food as you tour the museums.
After dinner, a shuttle will transport guests
to the Chickasaw White House in Emet for
dessert and a visit with Santa.
Chickasaw National Capitol
411 W. 9th Street
Tishomingo, OK 73460
For more information, call: (580) 371-9835